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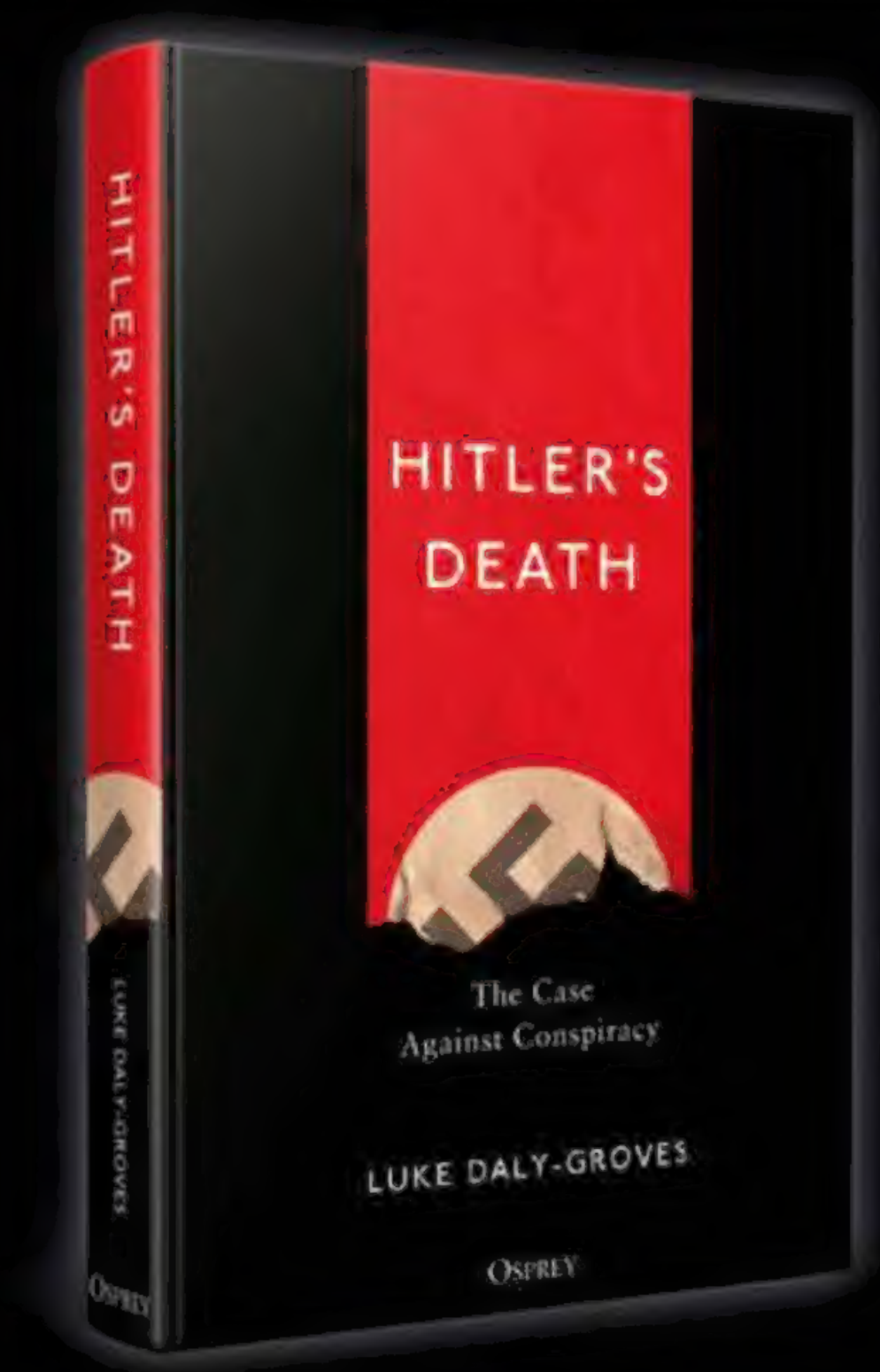


MARGARET: PARTY PRINCESS

Inside the style, scandal and tiara-topped tragedy

Digital Edition

ISSUE 076



From an MI6 cover-up to an escape to South America, historian Luke Daly-Groves offers a fascinating exploration and rebuttal of the many conspiracy theories surrounding the death of the twentieth century's most destructive dictator.

**'A HIGHLY READABLE ACCOUNT
THAT DEMOLISHES THE JUNK
HISTORY SURROUNDING HITLER'S
DEATH WITH FORMIDABLE AND
FORENSIC RESEARCH'**

Guy Walters,
author of *Hunting Evil*

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The Case
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exclusive offer for
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page 40

The sea sometimes seems as much home to the Vikings as any lands they claimed for their settlements. This issue we look at the legendary explorers who looked beyond the horizons to seek new adventures

Welcome

We have two tales of exploration to bring you this issue, both with their fair share of bravery and tragedy, but one far more successful than the other. We start of course with the great Viking explorers, lead by Erik the Red, but by no means stopping with him. We journey from the native Norse lands to England, Iceland, Greenland and finally what would come to be known as North America; journeys that inspired great sagas afterwards.

What drove these hearty travellers to venture forth and leave the comforts of home for the unkind winds and foul tides of the sea? What rewards awaited them? It was fascinating to take a closer look and you can learn even more by downloading a free Viking Sagas ebook this issue. Go to page 29 for the link.

The other great explorer this issue is Sir Walter Raleigh, once a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I, cast out and seeking redemption in his hunt for El

Dorado, the legendary city of gold. Mathew Lyons brings us his great experience on the subject.

Also, Daniel Barish walks us through the extraordinary life of Puyi, the last emperor of China. From sitting on the throne aged three, he would end his life a humble gardener in communist China.

It's an incredible and often tragic story of power, greed, hubris, malice and political manipulation. I hope you enjoy it and the rest of the issue.

**Jonathan
Gordon**
Editor



Editor's picks

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Pharaohs Of Egypt

We've made some changes to our approach on the Timeline this issue and hope you like how it looks. We think you will.

38



Viking Map

As well as our look at the stories of the great Viking explorers this issue we also have a wonderful map charting their routes.

62



Princess Margaret

Melanie Clegg has done a marvellous job chronicling the highs and heartbreaks of a royal life. A real highlight of the issue.

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Did Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor* get it right on Puyi?







DEFINING MOMENTS

THE HOMESTEAD RACE

At noon on 22 April 1889 around 50,000 people lined up ready to race to the Unassigned Lands in Oklahoma and start new lives. This was thanks to the lands being ceded to the US government following the Civil War and the Homestead Act allowing rights of ownership over claimed land so long as US citizens could prove they had improved that land. The Oklahoma Land Rush established new cities by the end of the day.

1889



DEFINING MOMENTS

STUDENTS IN THE SQUARE

The most famous image of the Tiananmen Square protests is of course a single protestor standing in front of a tank, but the event was so much more than that. It started in the Square with students mourning the death of party reformer Hu Yaobang and then protesting to have his legacy honoured. Protests would continue for reform in Beijing, but also elsewhere in China until they were brutally crushed, with an estimated 10,000 people dying.

1989







DEFINING MOMENTS

SOLO SAILING

Robin Knox-Johnston became the first person to circumnavigate the globe solo and non-stop when he returned to Falmouth on 22 April 1969. He had been taking part in the first Sunday Times Golden Globe Race along with a number of other competitors. As it was, most didn't even finish. He donated the £5,000 prize to the family of Donald Crowhurst, another competitor in the race who is believed to have committed suicide.

1969

“For the moment... I was struck dumb with amazement, and when Lord Carnarvon, unable to stand the suspense any longer, inquired anxiously, ‘Can you see anything?’ it was all I could do to get out the words, ‘Yes, wonderful things!’”

Howard Carter, Egyptologist on discovering Tutankhamun's tomb





ANCIENT EGYPT

We head down the Nile to rediscover wonders of the ancient world, celebrate the people who uncovered Egypt's secrets and delve into the lives of its people



Inside the Luxor Temple



Doctors in ancient Egypt



Celebrating Egyptologists



Treasures of the river Nile

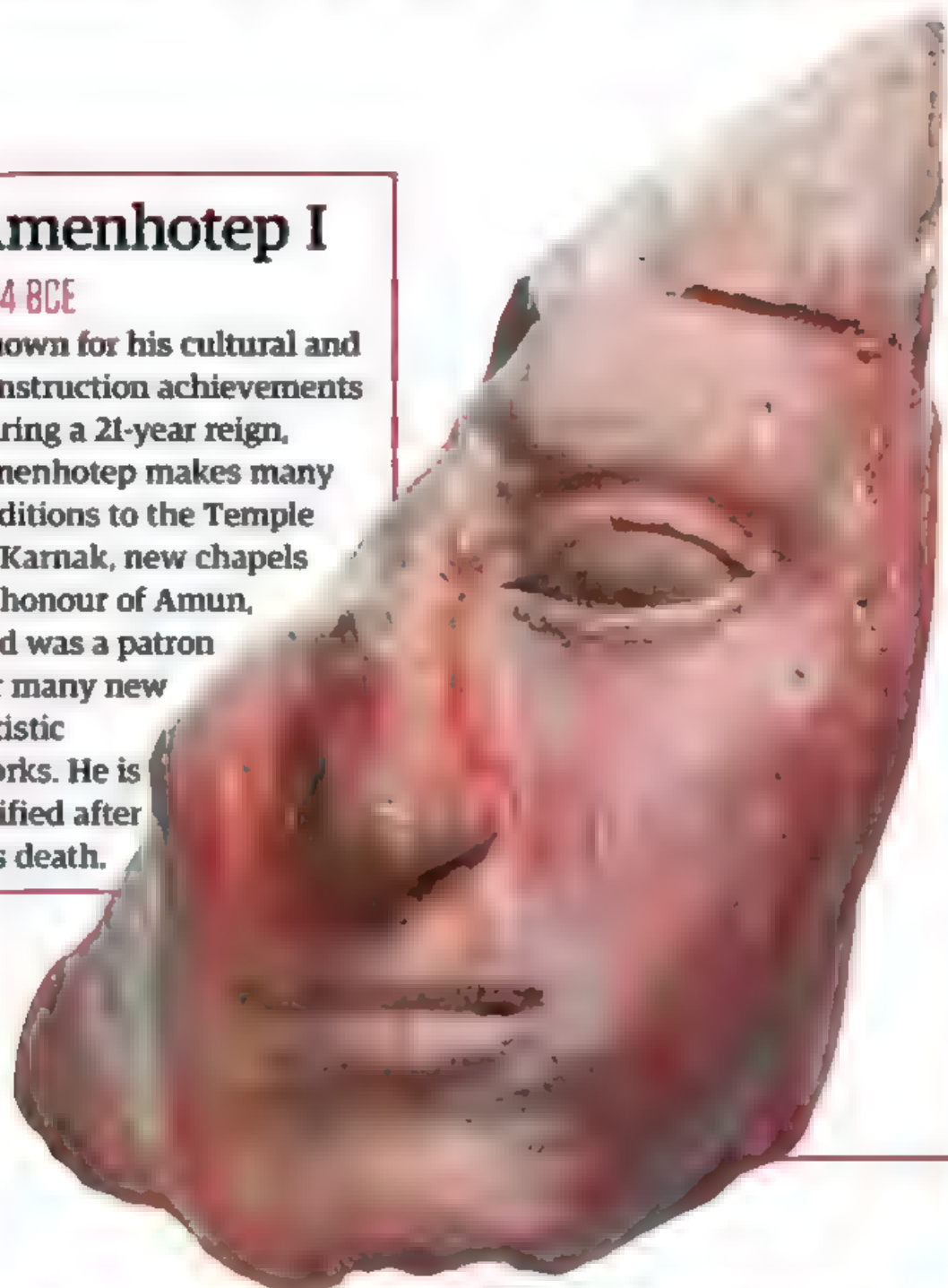
Written by Jessica Leggett, Jonathan Gordon, Katharine Marsh

The Pharaohs Of Egypt

Amenhotep I

1514 BCE

Known for his cultural and construction achievements during a 21-year reign, Amenhotep makes many additions to the Temple of Karnak, new chapels in honour of Amun, and was a patron for many new artistic works. He is deified after his death.



Hatshepsut

1478 BCE

Starting as queen consort before becoming Pharaoh in her own right (albeit alongside Thutmose III), Hatshepsut has been noted as the first great female leader in recorded history. Her greatest achievements were in opening up new trade routes with neighbouring kingdoms, helping to further enrich Egypt.



NARMER 3100 BCE

Believed to be the first king to unite both upper and lower Egypt, Namer's claim to be the first pharaoh also seems pretty strong.



KHUFU 2575 BCE

Most famous for building the Great Pyramid at Giza, Khufu's wider achievements are unknown. He is recorded by the Greeks as cruel, but as benevolent in other records.



PEPI II 2285 BCE

Ascending to the throne aged six, Pepi II's reign is best known for the decline in royal power as local monarchs grew in influence, bringing an end to the old kingdom.



3100 BCE

2650 BCE

1760 BCE

DJOSER 2650 BCE

Founder of the third dynasty of the old kingdom, he also oversaw the building of what is believed to be the first pyramid in Egypt, the step pyramid at Saqqara.



DJEDKARE ISESI 2464 BCE

Known as a massive reformer, Djedkare moved to empower provincial leaders, decentralising the nation as well as honouring Osiris over Ra.



SOBEKNEFERU 1760 BCE

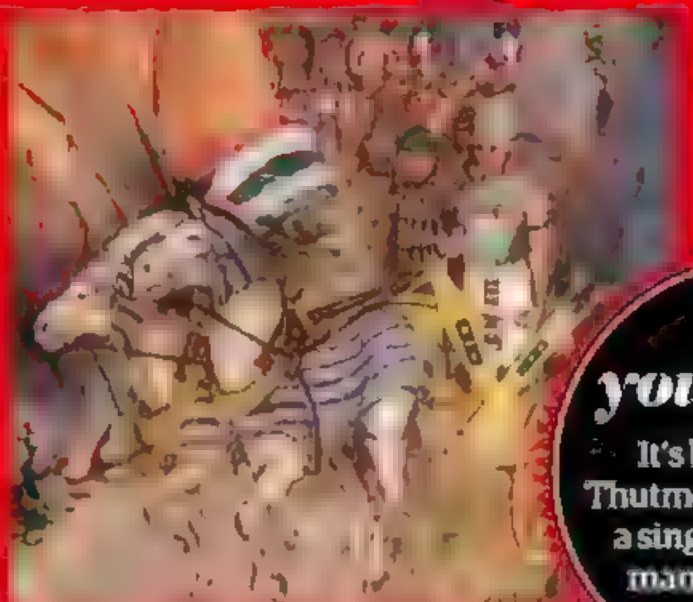
The first female pharaoh for whom solid evidence can be found, Sobekneferu is often shown wearing male clothing in depictions of her.



Thutmose III

1479 BCE

Waging 17 campaigns to expand the Egyptian empire, Thutmose III can be credited more than most for forging Egypt into the powerhouse of the region that it became and would largely continue to be for centuries.



Did you know?

It's believed that Thutmose III never lost a single battle in his many campaigns.

Tutankhamun 1333 BCE

While his reign was relatively short and given his age (only nine or ten when he ascended to the throne) Tutankhamun achieves a great deal in restoring the old gods and customs after the Aten cult of Akhenaten. The discovery of his tomb in 1922 helped make him one of Egypt's most famous pharaohs.



Did you know?

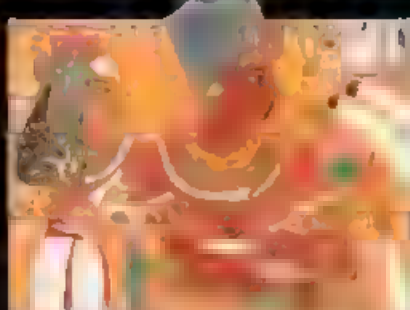
Ramesses II's 67-year reign is bested only by Pepi II who may have ruled for 94 years around 2200 BCE.

Ramesses II 1279 BCE

Following the religious restoration of Tutankhamun, Ramesses II looks to reestablish Egyptian political and military might in the region, embarking on several military campaigns and massive building projects such as Abu Simbel, at which giant statues of Ramesses dominate.

AMENHOTEP III 1390 BCE

Overseeing a renaissance in art, construction and diplomacy, Amenhotep earns his moniker of 'the magnificent' in his 40-odd years on the throne.



XERXES I 485 BCE

With Egypt now a part of the Persian empire, Xerxes I quells an early rebellion against his rule in the region before seeking to expand his borders.



PTOLEMY I SOTER 323 BCE

Following Alexander the Great came a new dynasty of Greek origin in Egypt that starts with nobleman Ptolemy, one of Alexander's trusted generals and advisers.



= 486 BCE =

= 44 BCE =

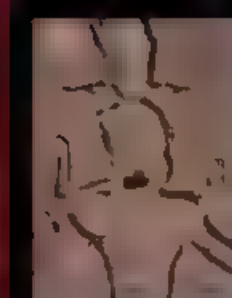
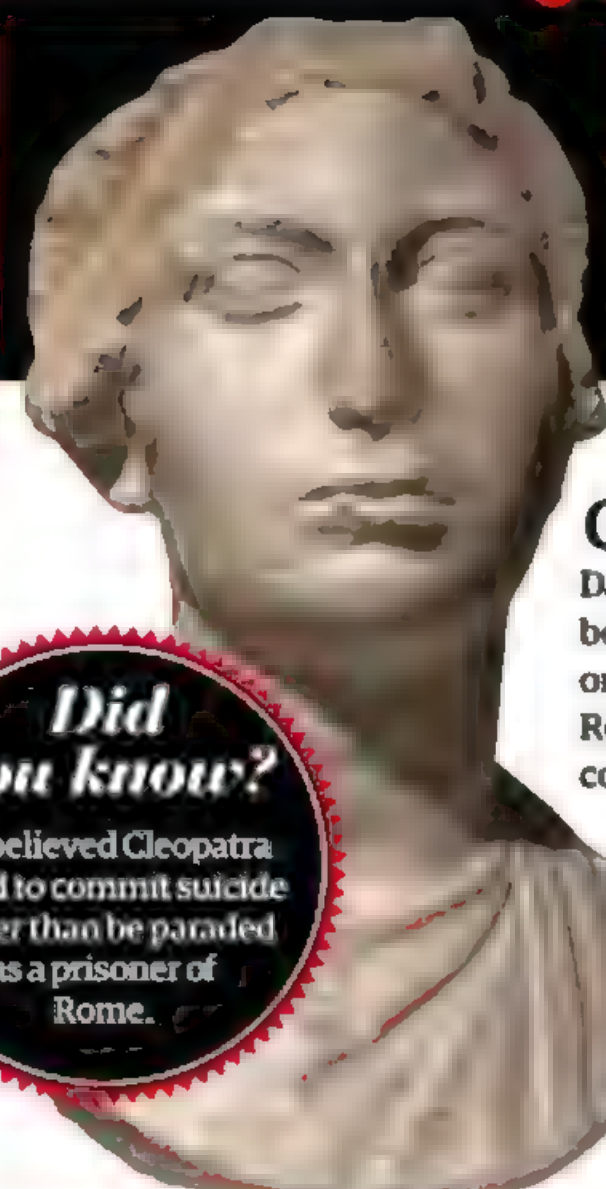
AKHENATEN 1353 BCE

Controversially starting a new cult dedicated to Aten, the sun disk, Akhenaten is married to Nefertiti. His cultural revolution doesn't take hold, however.



SETI I 1290 BCE

Having led military campaigns for his father, Ramesses I, Seti continues to expand the reach of Egypt once in power, returning the kingdom to its former glory.

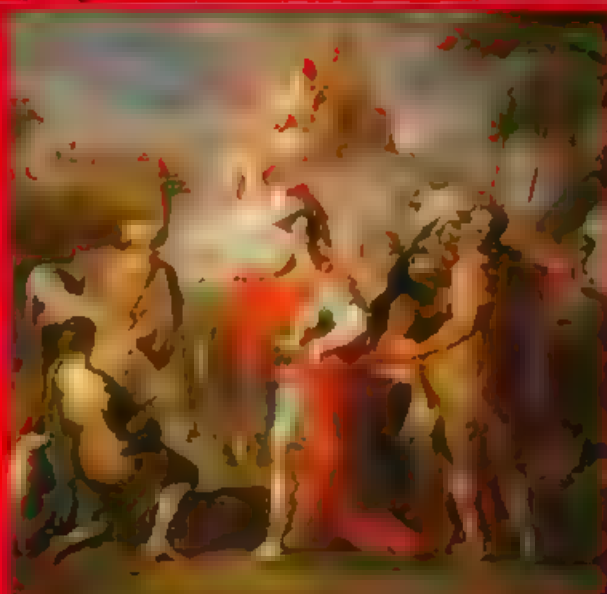


CAESARION 44 BCE

Son of Cleopatra and Julius Caesar, the last Egyptian Pharaoh was killed not long after his mother as Augustus of Rome hunted him down. He was 17 years old.

Alexander The Great 323 BCE

With Egypt under Persian rule again under Darius III, Alexander the Great's arrival has been recorded as being seen as a liberation. He conquers the region and establishes Alexandria, which will become home of the Ptolemaic dynasty that follows his death.



Did you know?

It's believed Cleopatra opted to commit suicide rather than be paraded as a prisoner of Rome.

Cleopatra VII 51 BCE

Daughter of Ptolemy XII who had become something of a puppet ruler on behalf of the ascending Roman Republic (soon to be empire), Cleopatra continues Egypt's close relationship with Rome through famous relationships with Julius Caesar and then Mark Antony, who she aids against the rise of Augustus following Julius' assassination.



LUXOR TEMPLE

THEBES/LUXOR, EGYPT,
1390-1352 BCE

In a kingdom where the gods were of paramount importance, temples were often grand affairs. Littering the country's cities, they were centres of worship, a place to get close to the various deities of the ancient Egyptian pantheon.

The Temple of Luxor - constructed in what is now called Luxor but was once Thebes - is situated right next to the River Nile and was one of the most important buildings for miles around. It's believed that work started on it before the New Kingdom, but the earliest features that survive have been dated to the reign of Amenhotep III, who was ruling in the early to mid 1300s BCE.

Luxor was a grand affair. At one point the largest and most significant religious centre in the kingdom, it was where the god Amun was symbolically reborn every year, and where Akhenaten, husband of Nefertiti and father of Tutankhamun, first contemplated the nature of God. Growing over 3,000 years, it certainly wasn't small, with expansions taking place under the reigns of Tutankhamun, Hatshepsut and Ramesses II. Even Alexander the Great made his mark, building a shrine with reliefs depicting him as an Egyptian pharaoh, and the Romans later built fortifications around the temple that became known as Al Uqsar, which later morphed into 'Luxor', which is what we call the area and temple in the present day.

Religion has always had a place on the site of Luxor. Some scholars believe that the ancient Egyptian temple we know today was built over an earlier temple, and a mosque was built in one of the interior courts in the 14th century. However, during the reign of the pharaohs it was connected to another temple three kilometres north - Karnak - by what has been called the Avenue of Sphinxes.

Outside the walls

With the mighty Nile on one side and the Avenue of Sphinxes leading up to the entrance, the other two sides of the temple were surrounded by houses made of mud brick, workshops and shops. Thebes, situated in modern-day Luxor about 500 kilometres south of Cairo, was a bustling city and served as the capital of the kingdom during the Middle and New periods.

Court of Ramesses II

Built by the pharaoh it was named after, the Court of Ramesses II was surrounded by a double row of columns, making 74 in total, with the room itself sitting at 57 by 51 metres. A number of statues stand between the columns, as well as a shrine to Thutmose III.

A grand entrance

First impressions are everything, and Ramesses II really took this to heart. Before entering the temple, worshippers were greeted with two 24-metre-high pylons depicting the pharaoh's victory at the Battle of Kadesh. However, only one of these still stands today. There were also six statues of the ruler himself - four of him standing, and two sitting down, either side of the entrance.

Avenue of Sphinxes

At around three kilometres long, this road, flanked by about 1,350 sphinxes, was used once a year during the Opet festival, with Egyptians between Luxor and Karnak carrying statues of Amun and Mut. There were also barque chapels, six of which were built by Queen Hatshepsut.

Birth Room of Amenhotep III

At the Temple of Luxor, the reliefs in one room show the supposed birth of the pharaoh Amenhotep III, linking him to the godly heritage he was supposed to have as an Egyptian ruler. We are still able to see the depiction of his conception, when, according to the hieroglyphic caption, the god's "dew filled her [Amenhotep's mother's] body".

The Theban Triad

The Temple of Luxor was supposedly initially dedicated to the gods Amun, Mut and Khonsu, otherwise known as the Theban Triad, but this has never been confirmed. However, there are two small chapels in the original part of the temple that are dedicated to Mut and Khonsu.

Alexander the Great

During his tenure as pharaoh from 332 to 323 BCE, Alexander the Great added his own mark to the Temple of Luxor in the shape of a shrine to Amun. In an antechamber that had originally been built by Amenhotep III, four columns were removed and a rectangular sandstone shrine was put in their place.

Hypostyle Hall

The hypostyle hall was a typical feature of religious architecture in ancient Egypt. Large, thick pillars reached upwards and a roof rested on top, and it was supposed to resemble reaching up to the gods in the heavens. The one at Luxor had four rows of eight columns, each decorated with heroic or religious motifs.

Court of Amenhotep III

Measuring about 45 by 56 metres, the Court of Amenhotep III was the first expansion of the Temple of Luxor beyond the original complex. It is surrounded by a double row of 60 columns with more in the shape of papyrus plants on three sides.

THE *Anatomy* of

AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN DOCTOR

ANCIENT EGYPT, 3150-300 BCE

GOING PLACES

Ancient Egyptian doctors were known for their medical prowess across the known world. The pharaohs had their own court physicians, and some even sent their doctors abroad for example, Ramesses II sent one to Hittite court. We also know from the papyri that doctors conducted house visits.

SOLID TRAINING

We know of the existence of medical schools in Alexandria and other locations across ancient Egypt, and every doctor went through training at one of these centres. These schools were some of the best in the ancient world, and graduates left being able to perform successful surgeries, amputations and the ability to fix broken bones.

EVERYONE WELCOME

Unusually for some of the bigger ancient civilisations, doctors in Egypt could be male or female. One of the earliest mentioned female physicians was Peseshet, who was working around 2400 BCE as the supervisor of all female doctors, but there may have been more as early as 3000 BCE.

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Not all maladies were treated with what we would now think of as scientific methods - diseases were thought to be caused by the gods and so treatment was slightly different. Amulets, incantations and incense were all used to placate deities or invoke protection from the gods as a preventative.



TOOL UP

There was no shortage of tools in Egyptian medicine, and most doctors had some knowledge of basic surgery. Implements included scalpels made of flint and metal, bone saws, catheters, forceps, specula, scissors and linen bandages. However, while these tools were used on patients with some success, there was actually little understanding of how internal organs worked.

WRITING IT DOWN

Most of what we know about ancient Egyptian doctors and medicine today has come from papyri that have survived for well over 2,000 years. These different papyri contain a record of more than 800 medical procedures, as well as specific instructions for medicines and remedies and incantations to repel the disease-causing demons.

A HIGHER POWER

In ancient Egypt, most doctors were also priests. Many were followers of Sekhmet, a goddess of healing, curses and threats, while some were priests of Heka, the goddess of magic and medicine. Because of this aspect of religion, cleanliness was a high priority - doctors had to bathe frequently and carefully to keep themselves pure in body and spirit.

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AA28004 Messerschmitt Bf109E-4
'Yellow 1' Oblt Gerhard Schopfel,
Staffelkapitan 9/JG26, Calfers, France, August 1940
Scale 1:72 | Length 137mm

AA27607 Hawker Hurricane Mk.I
V6799 / SD-X Pilot Officer K.W. Mackenzie,
RAF No.501 Squadron, Kenley, October 1940
Scale 1:72 | Length 172mm

A Model Battle

IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE HOW THE young men of Fighter Command managed to cope with the rigors of aerial combat during the Battle of Britain. Facing overwhelming odds and with the fate of the nation squarely in their hands, they were forced to fight for their lives on almost a daily basis and for Britain to survive, they would have to shoot down enemy aircraft at a rate of almost 4 to 1. Their bravery and determination is now the stuff of legend and the many stories of heroism and almost unbelievable devotion to duty they displayed, continue to inspire many people to this day.

One of the most famous moments in the Battle of Britain was on 14 October 1940, when Pilot Officer Ken Mackenzie was standing in a damaged Messerschmitt Bf109 over the south coast. Having used up all his ammunition, he was determined not to let the Luftwaffe fighter limp back to France only to threaten his RAF comrades another day. Manoeuvring his Hurricane close to the low flying 109, he used his wing tip to sever the port stabilizer of the Messerschmitt, sending it spinning into the sea and taking the outer section of his own wing with it. He was then set upon by two more 109s and sustaining damage to his Hurricane, just managed to avoid cliffs near Folkestone and belly land his fighter in the first field he saw. The 24 year old Mackenzie quickly returned to action and claimed at least seven enemy aircraft destroyed during the Battle of Britain.

By the early stages of the Battle of Britain, Luftwaffe pilot Gerhard Schopfel had already achieved the status of fighter ace, but during August 1940, he was to increase his victory tally significantly. His most successful day came on the 18th August, whilst leading an independent hunting patrol of Messerschmitt Bf109E fighters across southern England. Whilst over the Folkestone area, he spotted the Hurricanes of No.510 Squadron climbing out of Hawkinge, but rather than immediately attacking the RAF fighters, Schopfel and his wingman dived underneath the aircraft to approach from their blind spot. Unnoticed by the Hurricanes, Schopfel shot down the two tail-end-Charles, expecting to see the remaining aircraft immediately breaking for cover, but they carried on their course. He managed to shoot down a further two Hurricanes, including the aircraft of RAF aces Donald McKay and Kenneth Lee, who both managed to successfully bale out of their stricken fighters.

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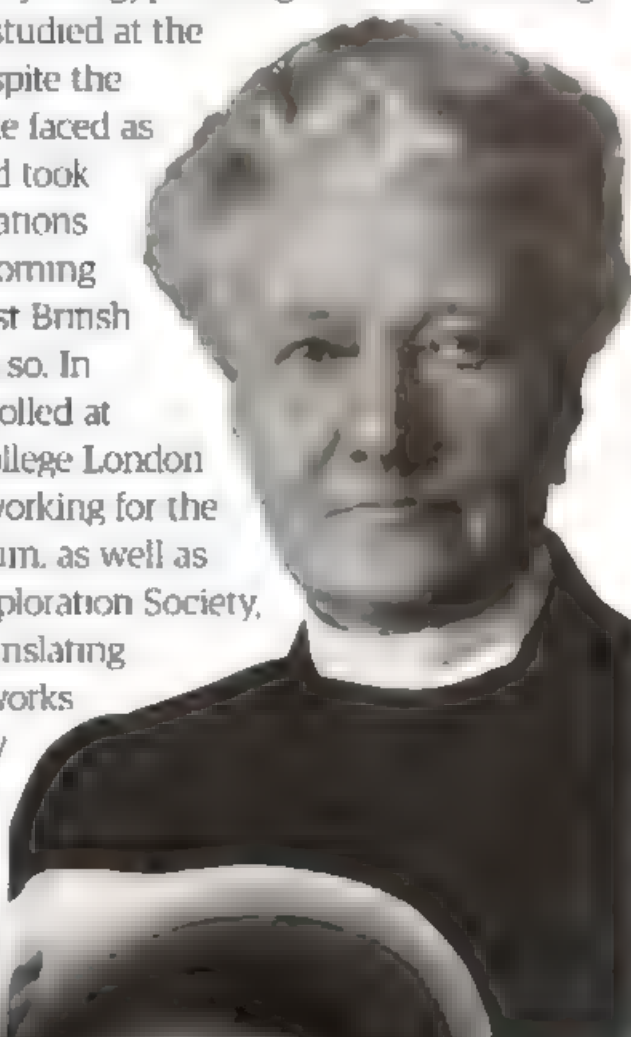
Hall of Fame NOTABLE EGYPTOLOGISTS

The pioneers who built the foundations of modern Egyptology along with the scholars whose discoveries astounded the world

MARY BRODRICK

BRITISH 1858-1933

Brodrick's interest in Egyptology began following her first holiday to Egypt during the 1880s. Settling in Paris, she studied at the Sorbonne despite the opposition she faced as a woman, and took part in excavations in Egypt, becoming one of the first British women to do so. In 1890, she enrolled at University College London and started working for the British Museum, as well as the Egypt Exploration Society, while also translating various key works of Egyptology into English.



PIERRE MONTET **FRENCH 1885-1966**

After over a decade of excavations at the city of Tanis, Montet discovered three royal tombs belonging to the pharaohs, Psusennes I, Amenemope and Shoshenq II between 1939 and 1940. Amazingly, all three tombs were completely intact and full of treasures, including the incredible gold funerary masks worn by the pharaohs. However, arguably the most remarkable aspect of Montet's discovery was that until then, Shoshenq II had remained an unknown king to scholars.



SIR WILLIAM MATTHEW FLINDERS PETRIE

BRITISH 1863-1942

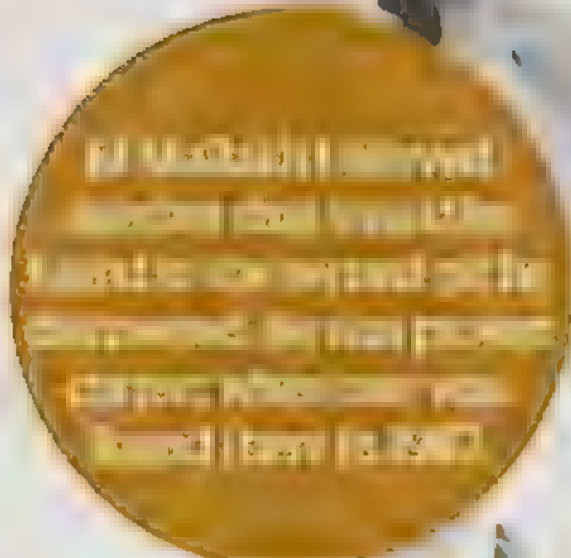
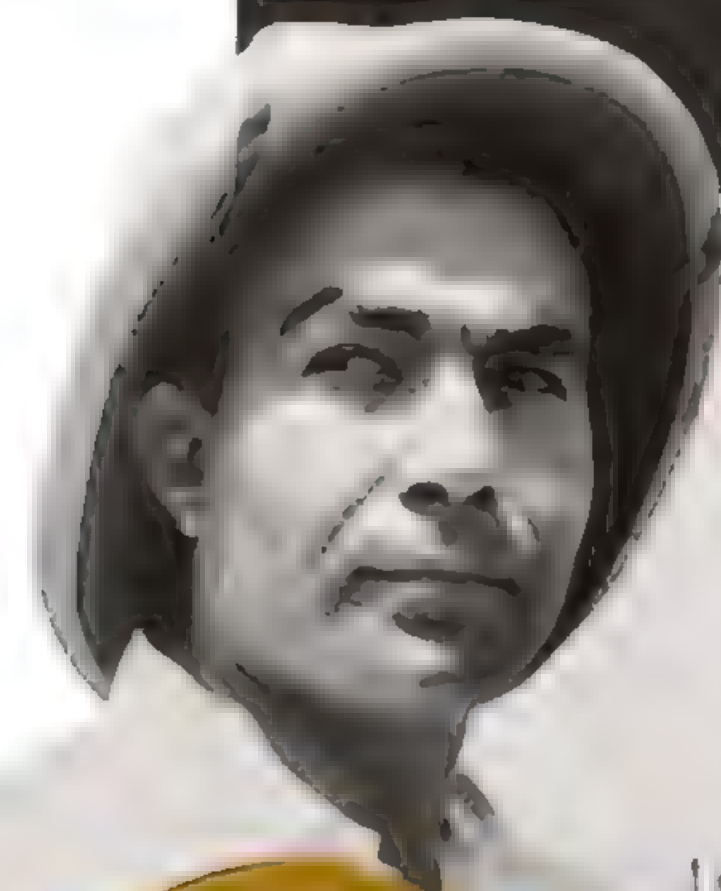
After travelling to Egypt in 1880, to survey the Great Pyramid of Giza, Petrie was dismayed to discover decaying monuments and archaeological evidence being destroyed by the work of careless excavators. In response, he vowed to save as many Egyptian antiquities as possible.

Publishing numerous articles on his findings, Petrie was introduced to Amelia Edwards who encouraged his career and following her death in 1892, he was named the first chair of Egyptology in England after she left funding for the position in her will. Conducting numerous excavations during his lifetime, Petrie was known for using scientific method and pioneered the use of seriation in the field.

KAMAL EL-MALLAKH

EGYPTIAN 1918-1987

El-Mallakh was the man responsible for discovering the Khufu ship in 1954, which he found in one of the two pits he uncovered just south of the Great Pyramid of Giza. An ancient Egyptian vessel from the reign of Pharaoh Khufu, the intact ship is one of the oldest and largest in the world, dating back to c.2500 BCE. Today, it can be found on display at the Solar Boat Museum in Giza, created specifically for the ship.



AMELIA B EDWARDS

BRITISH 1831-1892

Edwards's passion for ancient Egyptian culture was sparked following a holiday to Egypt in 1873. Along with a group of tourists, Edwards travelled up the Nile from Cairo to Abu Simbel, where they all took part in the excavation of a small temple. Upset that numerous ancient monuments were



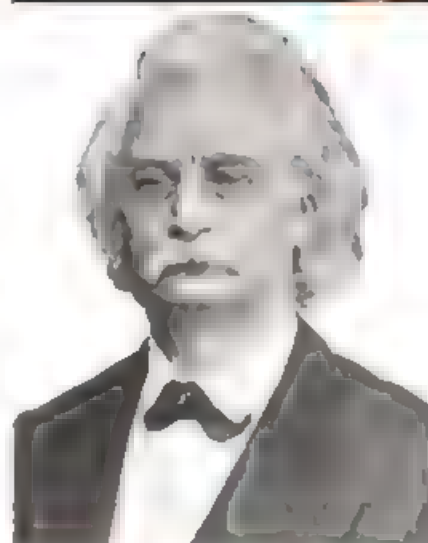
being neglected, Edwards founded the Egyptian Exploration Fund in 1882, raising money for archaeologists to excavate and preserve the artefacts they found. Dedicating the rest of her life to the field, Edwards even left funding in her will to fund the Department of Egyptology in London.



JEAN-FRANÇOIS CHAMPOLLION

FRENCH 1790-1832

Champollion was the first person to decipher the hieroglyphics of the Rosetta Stone. Using his knowledge of Coptic, the last phase of the Egyptian language in which he was fluent, Champollion realised that hieroglyphics were phonetic and his breakthrough, made in 1822, was crucial to the understanding of ancient Egyptian language. Following his success, Champollion was appointed as the director of the Egyptian Museum at the Louvre and he carried out expeditions in Egypt from 1828 to 1830.



KARL RICHARD LEPSIUS

PRUSSIAN 1810-1884

A pioneer of modern Egyptology, Lepsius's work has proven crucial to our understanding of Egyptian monuments today. In 1842, he led an expedition to Egypt funded by King Frederick Wilhelm IV of Prussia, which uncovered a total of 67 pyramids and 130 tombs. Publishing his findings in 12 volumes, including the various inscriptions he recorded, Lepsius's efforts have proved invaluable to modern Egyptologists as many of the sites he described have since deteriorated. His career continued to soar after the expedition and by 1865 he had been appointed keeper of the Egyptian collection in Berlin, followed by another appointment as the director of the National Library in 1873.

AUGUSTE MARIETTE

FRENCH 1801-1880

Considered to be one of the founding fathers of modern Egyptology, Mariette's career in the subject began at the Louvre Museum in 1849. Travelling to Egypt the following year to collect ancient manuscripts, Mariette conducted a series of excavations at Saqqara, where amongst his discoveries he unearthed the ruins of the Serapeum. He was also the founder of the Egyptian Antiquities Service and in 1858, Mariette successfully persuaded the Ottoman viceroy of Egypt to establish the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.



MARGARET MURRAY

SCOTTISH 1861-1945

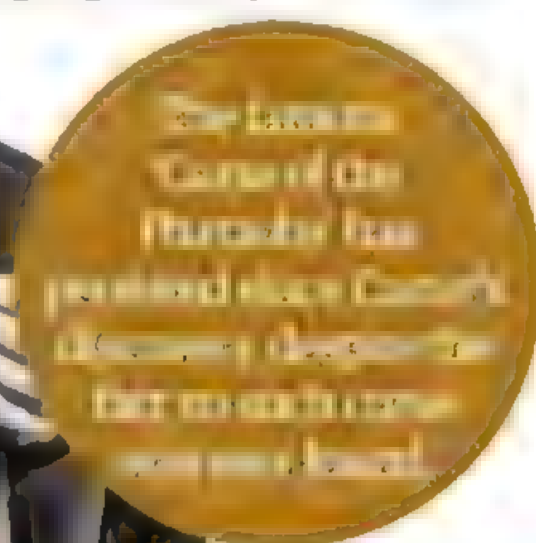
Murray first became involved in Egyptology after enrolling at University College London in 1893 to study under Flinders Petrie. Just six years later, she was appointed as a junior lecturer in Egyptology, becoming the first female archaeology lecturer in the UK. Among her various achievements, Murray excavated The Osireion, the Temple of Osiris, located in Abydos, with Petrie, and she also published numerous works on a wide range of topics associated with ancient Egypt.



HOWARD CARTER

BRITISH 1874-1939

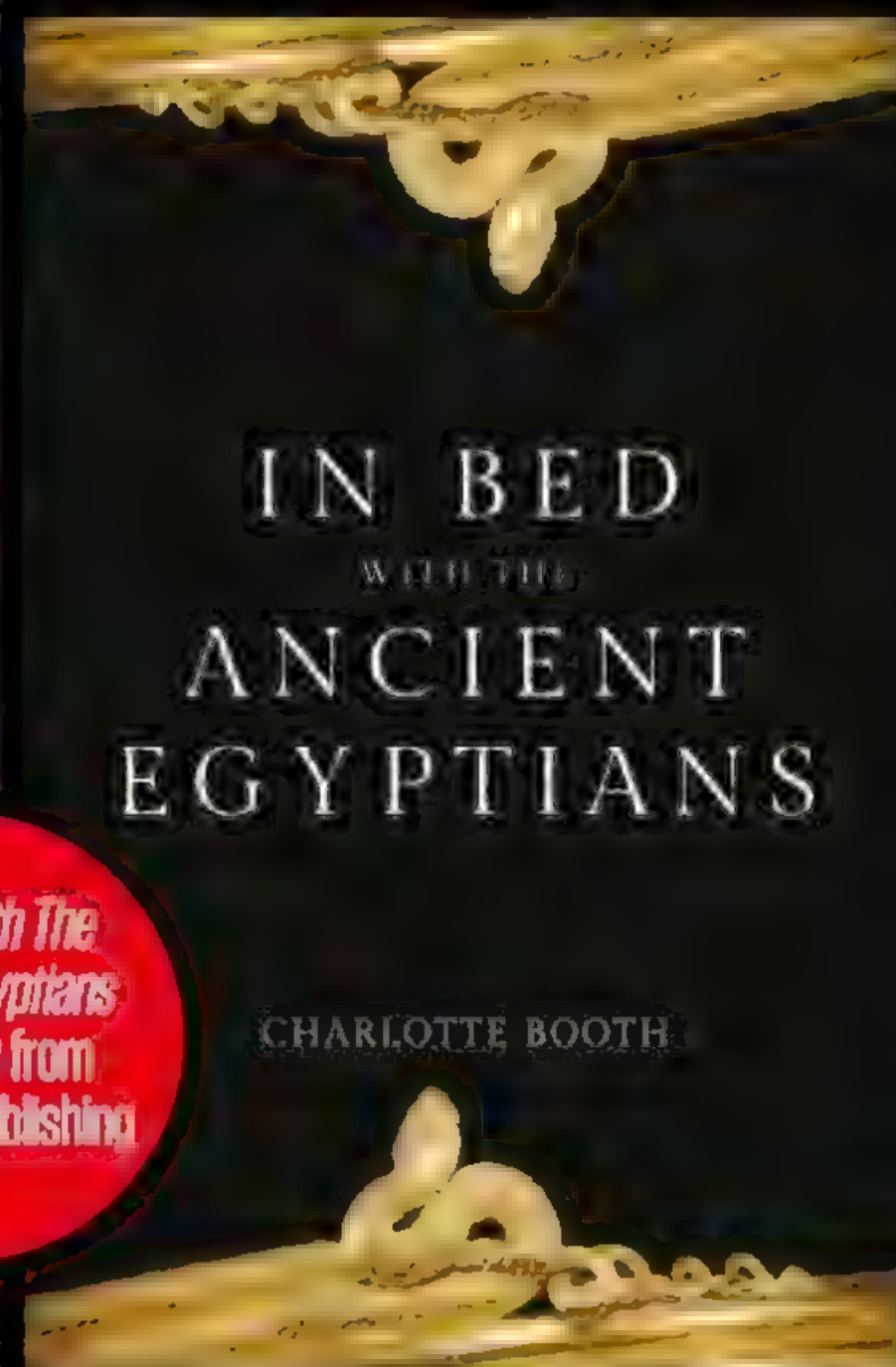
Carter is undeniably one of the most famous Egyptologists in history, as the man who discovered the tomb of King Tutankhamun in November 1922. Remarkably, the discovery was made after Carter persuaded his associate and financial backer, Lord Carnarvon, to allow one final campaign in the Valley of the Kings after their previous excavations had found little success. Carter cleared the tomb of its spectacular objects and on 16 February 1923, the burial chamber was opened to reveal the king's remains. Carter spent the next nine years emptying the tomb for conservation and cataloguing the newly-found treasures.



Q&A With...

CHARLOTTE BOOTH

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST AND WRITER TALKS US THROUGH THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT SEX PLAYED IN EGYPTIAN LIFE



In Bed With The Ancient Egyptians is out now from Amberley Publishing

Charlotte Booth is the author of more than a dozen books on the ancient Egyptians as well as a regular guest on historical TV shows covering the Egyptians. She also worked with the Museum of London Archaeology on the Bedlam dig in Liverpool Street.



Q HOW WOULD YOU COMPARE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEX AND SEXUALITY TO TODAY?

A The only real difference in attitude is for the Egyptian royal family, where for political reasons kings married their sisters, daughters and granddaughters. Incestuous marriage was not acceptable for non-royals. But for a modern Western perspective, Queen Victoria married her first cousin Albert. Prince Charles and Princess Diana were 16th cousins once removed and Camilla's great-grandmother was the mistress of Prince Charles's great-great-grandfather, King Edward VII. The modern British royal family are inter-connected. Sex, however, in ancient Egypt was generally seen as a means of procreating but that didn't stop people having sex for fun. Marriage was quite fluid and divorce was essentially the woman moving out of her husband's home so it wasn't unusual for men and women to have multiple partners throughout their lives. They even had a saying that reflects this, which is along the lines of "You are only ever certain of who your mother is."

Q DO WE HAVE A SENSE OF WHAT COURTING WAS LIKE? WAS THERE A DATING SCENE IN ANCIENT EGYPT?

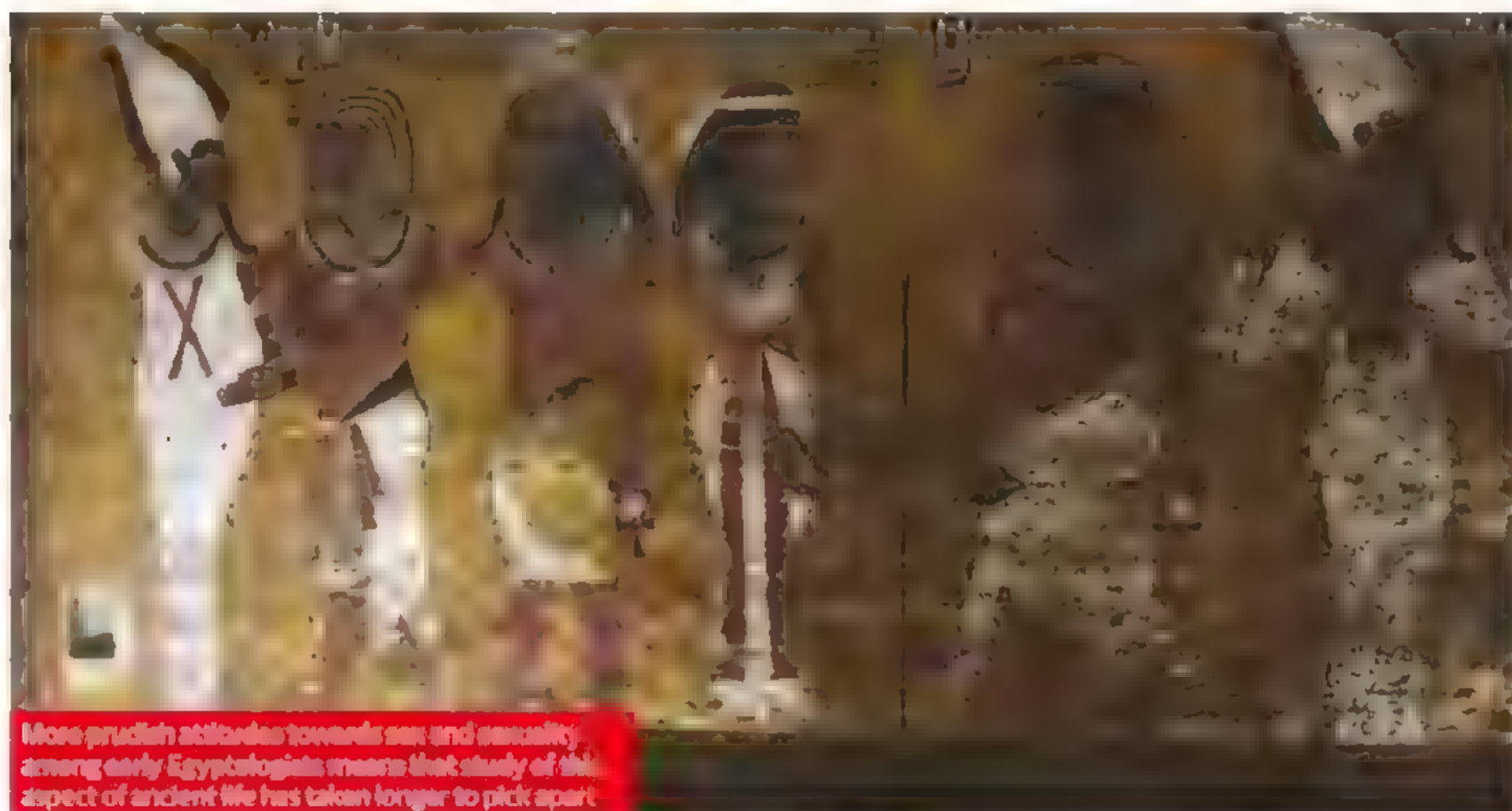
A The only evidence we have of 'courting' as such is from the New Kingdom love poetry, which describes people being interested in someone of the opposite sex, and descriptions of them being in love, but there is no evidence of people 'dating' in the same sense that we do today. That is not to say that it didn't happen. People got married when they were very young so courting is unlikely to be prolonged, and perhaps meeting at village gatherings and sneaking time together was the way it happened. Sadly no records exist about this.

Q HOW SURPRISED WERE YOU TO FIND THERE WAS SO LITTLE DOCUMENTATION ABOUT CHILDBIRTH FROM THIS ERA?

A Not very. The literacy rates in pharaonic Egypt were very low, some suggest as low as 0.1% and this would have been even lower amongst women. So midwifery and medical knowledge associated with childbirth was passed on orally from local wise women. Men generally did the record-keeping and they weren't involved in midwifery so it's not surprising that this knowledge was unrecorded.

Q SEX AND PROCREATION WERE IMPORTANT IN EGYPTIAN RELIGIOUS STORIES. ARE THERE ANY EXAMPLES THAT ILLUSTRATE THIS?

A Obviously the creation myth which describes the creator god Atum creating the first generation of gods through "copulation with his hand" - he



More prudish attitudes towards sex and sexuality among early Egyptologists means that study of this aspect of ancient life has taken longer to pick apart

essentially self-created the next-generation of gods; Shu and Tefnut, who then copulated in the traditional way to create the next generation of gods; Nut and Geb - who copulate in the traditional way, and so on and so forth. In the creation story of the Ogdoad of Hermopolis, the mound of creation itself was brought into creation through the copulation of four couples - each made up of a snake and a frog. Therefore sex and procreation are at the forefront of all life in Egypt.

Q DID SEX EVER PLAY MUCH OF A PART IN RELIGIOUS PRACTICE?

A The only evidence of a sexual role within religious practice is that of the God's Wife of Amun at Karnak temple. These priestesses formed the harem of the god Amun. It was considered a very important and powerful role and was initially held by senior royal women. It fell out of fashion in the 18th dynasty. The role of God's Wife was a complex one and they were responsible for rituals that reinforced the king's legitimacy to rule as well as the maintenance of Maat (truth and justice) throughout the whole world. They were often depicted in close proximity to Amun, embracing or holding hands. There is speculation whether there was a sexual aspect to the role although this is not recorded.

Q HOW WOULD YOU ASSESS ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS HOMOSEXUALITY?

A Egyptian attitudes were mixed about homosexuality - some records indicate it was considered to be a fruitless exercise as it did not end in procreation and therefore it was deemed

a waste of time. This can be seen in the story of General Sasetem where the king has nightly meetings with his general that the narrator feels is not a valuable use of the king's time. Homosexuality also appears in the story of Horus and Seth, where Seth - the god of chaos - lies with Horus. Seth is often misunderstood by modern readers who try to equate him with the devil but to the Egyptians he was a necessary part of life. Without chaos (Seth) there cannot be order (Horus) and some kings (Sety I and Ramses II)

adopted Seth as their god of choice as he was powerful. So his activities were seen as chaotic, powerful and potentially dangerous but not 'wrong' and an essential part of life as a counterbalance to order. There is very little evidence of homosexuality and any potential evidence is always analysed carefully but is often inconclusive. For example, Nyankh-khnum and Khnum-Nakht are shown embracing in their joint tomb, which many have suggested is due to a homosexual relationship. However, their wives are also represented in the tomb and some have suggested they were brothers or even twins.

Q HOW MUCH HAS PURITANICAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEX IN MORE RECENT CENTURIES CLOUDED OUR RECORDS OF EGYPTIAN LIFE?

A I think the attitudes of the founders of Egyptology in the 19th century clearly affected the books and records that were written at the time - and indeed the volume of the Turin Erotic Papyrus was kept in libraries under lock and key and was viewed by appointment only. But things have moved on and books on the history of ancient Egypt written after the 1970s present the evidence for the reader to see

"IN THE ROYAL FAMILY, KINGS MARRIED THEIR SISTERS, DAUGHTERS AND GRAND DAUGHTERS"

Places To Explore SIGHTS OF THE RIVER NILE

The lifeblood of ancient Egypt is the perfect conduit to see its wonders



1 PYRAMID OF DJOSER SAQQARA

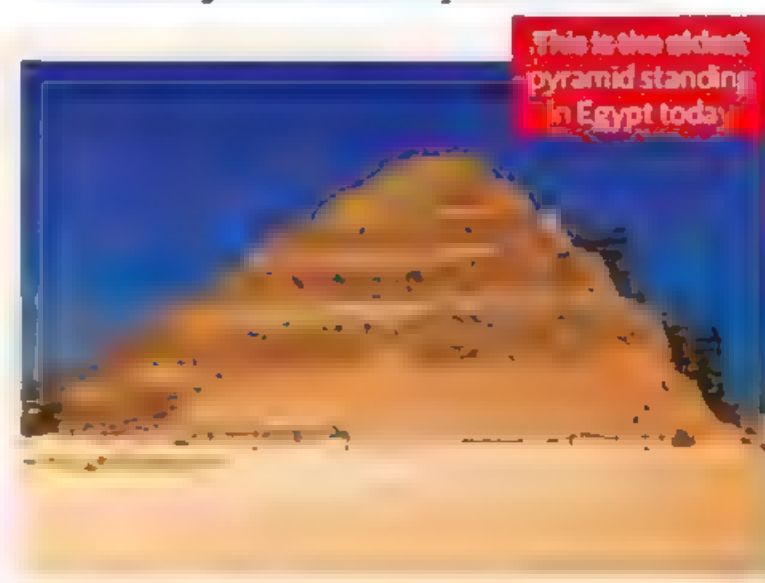
The reason for the Djoser Pyramid being such an important landmark is also the reason why you can't currently enter it; it's the oldest intact large stone structure in the world and quite likely to be the first of the Egyptian pyramids. Built between 2630 BCE and 2611 BCE for the pharaoh Djoser, it was designed by the famous doctor and priest Imhotep, standing 62.5 metres high.

While you can't enter the pyramid itself you can explore the complex and how the whole structure was put together, which in its entirety was a template for so much that was to follow. Renovation of the tiered structure has been in progress, but there remains concern that it won't be stable enough to accept visitors for some time.

The whole complex, though, is 40 acres, so there's plenty to look around, including

the imposing entry hall, the stunning roofed colonnade corridor that takes you in and lots of intact reliefs of the pharaoh himself.

Prices can vary, but the most recent posts suggest passes for the site cost 150EGP (less than £7) and concessions 75EGP. The site is accessible from 8am to 5pm all week.

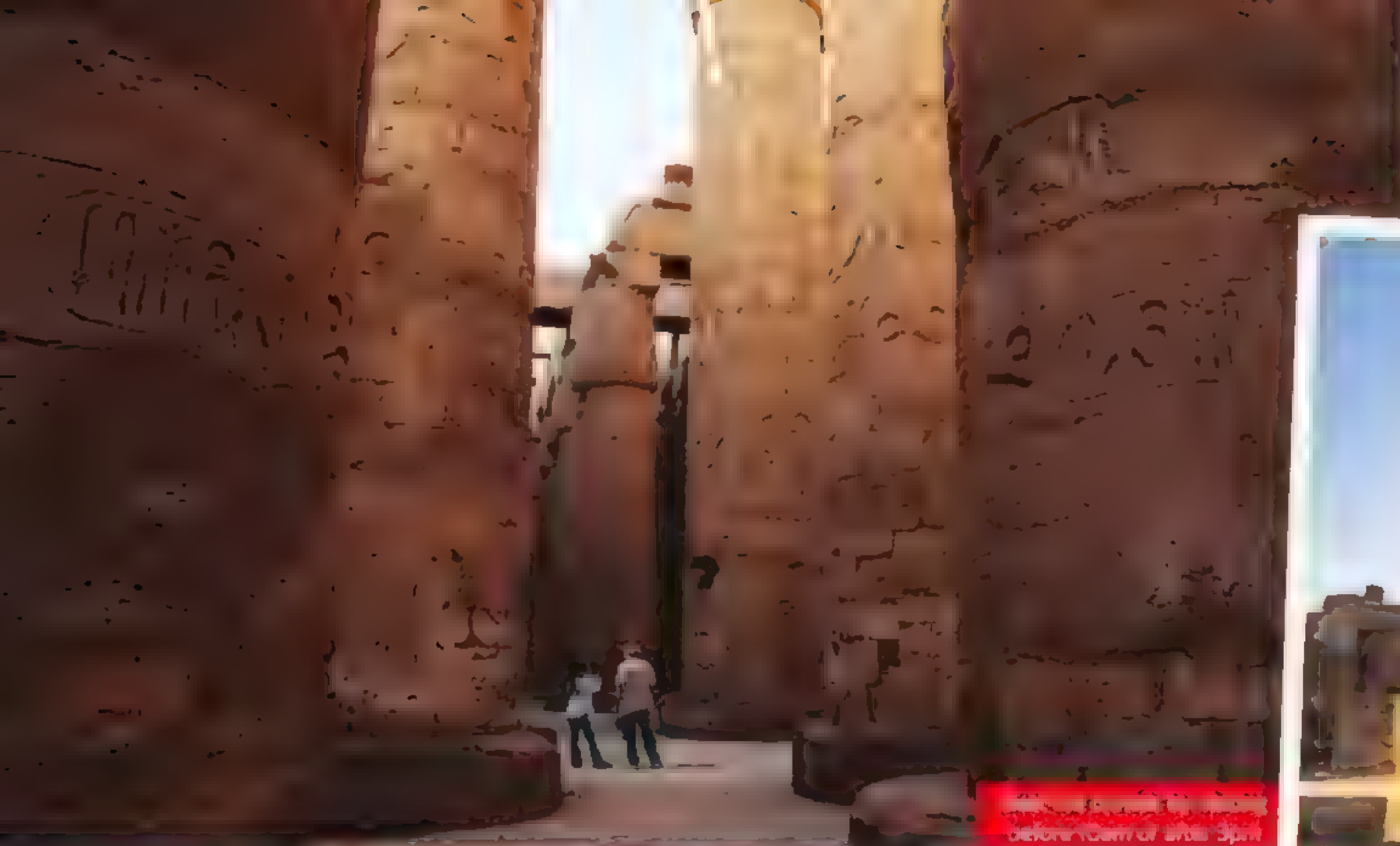


2 TEMPLE OF PHILAE ASWAN

The beautifully detailed and dramatic reliefs of this temple are just one of the compelling reasons to check out this site on your Nile journey. The whole complex is a wealth of historical monuments thanks to the fact that it was maintained and added to by pharaohs and Caesars over the years. It's actually one of the more modern temples of the ancient era having been built around the early 4th century BCE.

Like a number of other great historical sites around the Nile, the Temple of Philae doesn't actually stand in its original location. Rising water levels caused by dam construction along the Nile were threatening to engulf the famed holy site in honour of the Egyptian goddess Isis, but a UNESCO rescue project saw every stone moved and reassembled from Philae Island to Agilika Island. Thankfully this process was a big success and visitors can continue to enjoy its treasures, including a stunning evening Sound and Light Show.

This temple is open from 7am to 4pm from October through to May and then 7am to 5pm June through to September. Tickets appear to start at 140EGP with concessions at 70EGP.



3 TEMPLE OF KARNAK LUXOR

Karnak remains the second largest religious site in the world covering 200 acres, sitting just behind Angkor Wat in Cambodia, which is doubly impressive when you consider there was more than 2,000 years between the construction of the two complexes. Situated just north of Luxor, which would have been the ancient Egyptian capital Thebes when it was built, it was the centre of religious life for multiple pharaohs and was constantly being added to and amended with each new ruler.

The end result is a massive complex of temples and precincts each with their own focus and some amazing reliefs to look at. The main focus of the complex is the Great Temple of Amun, greatly embellished from its first modest design after Tuthmosis I moved the

capital to Thebes and upgraded this temple to better reflect its new significance. Statues and inscriptions line every wall, paying tribute to kings and gods in equal measure.

And beyond it all is probably the most picturesque element of Karnak, the sacred lake. It would have been used for ritual washing and navigation by the priests of the time. It was also the home of sacred geese, who were one of the symbols of Amun. A Sound and Light Show is available in the evenings, with a pickup from Luxor taking you to and from the complex.

The Karnak Temple Complex is open from 6am to 5:30pm in the winter months and 6am to 6:30pm in the summer. Passes start at 150EGP and 75EGP for concessions.

4 ABU SIMBEL TEMPLES QENA

This incredible complex, built at the direction of Ramesses II, is impressive on a number of levels. You might be blown away by its sheer scale and detail. You may be impressed that it's built into the rockface. Then again, you may also be aghast at the fact that it was moved 180 metres west and 64 metres up the valley from where it originally stood. Abu Simbel was another UNESCO preservation project that helped to stop

this temple from being lost to the Nile after the Aswan dam changed the water levels.

Now Abu Simbel is safe and dry, but has lost none of its jaw-dropping grandeur from its relocation. In case you were wondering whether or not it was something of a vanity project for Ramesses II, four giant statues of the pharaoh himself stand to welcome you at the entrance. Inside, records of his great victories adorn the walls as well as tributes to the gods, most notably Amun, after which the first temple is named, along with Ramesses II.

His is not the only temple, though, as a second to his chief wife Nefertari is also on the site. Inside you will find a sanctuary dedicated to Hathor, goddess of joy, music and motherhood, which is also well worth checking out. It really is a quite remarkable place to visit.

This site is open as early as 5am, and then tours end at 6pm. There is a Sound and Light Show in the evenings, however. Day passes start at 200EGP and 100EGP for concessions.

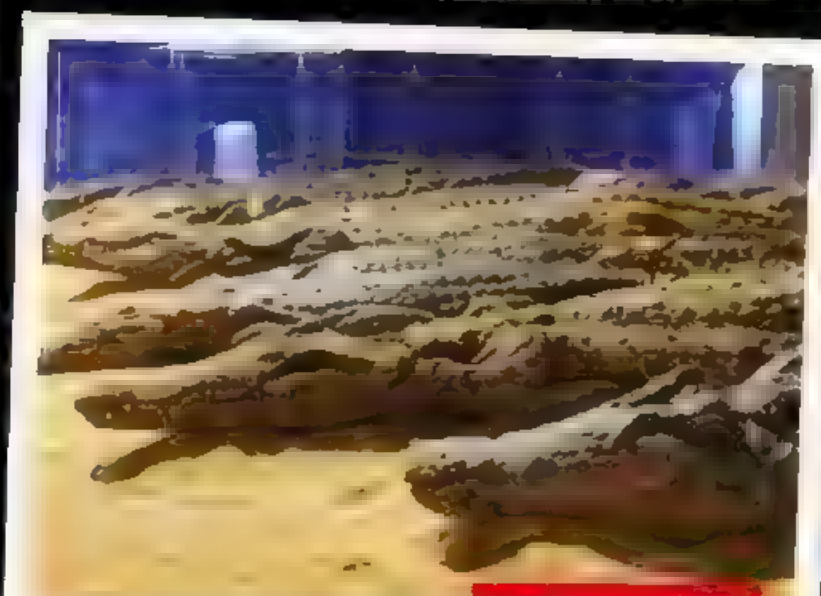


5 TEMPLE OF KOM OMBO KOM OMBO

While many temples from the ancient Egyptian world featured dedications to more than one god, Kom Ombo is unique in that it was built as a dual temple, the entire complex mirrored to equally honour Sobek and Hareris. The northern part of the temple is dedicated to the falcon god Hareris, god of light, and the southern part belongs to crocodile god Sobek, god of fertility.

Sitting right on the river Nile, just south west of the town Kom Ombo, you get a fantastic view of the temple if you approach from the river. The temple itself has taken some damage over the years through natural forces and builders scavenging for materials, but it has stood up remarkably well in a number of places. Some reliefs have retained their striking colours, particularly in the courtyard of Sobek and Hareris as you enter. To make it a full day trip, consider visiting the nearby town of Daraw, which has a camel market on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The temple is open from 6am to 4pm in winter and open an additional hour in the summer months. Passes cost 100EGP or 50EGP for students, and include the Crocodile Museum.



Mummified crocodiles were found around this temple

Historical Treasures THE BOOK OF THE DEAD

UNCOVER THE SPELL BOOK THAT COULD SAVE YOUR SOUL EGYPT, 1991-30 BCE

In a culture where the gods feature so heavily in everyday life, what happens after death is always important. Ancient Egypt was no different, and that's where the Book of the Dead came in. A more accurate translation of the title would perhaps be the Book of Coming Forth by Day, or Spells for Going Forth by Day, but one thing that can be agreed is that no two copies of the book are the same.

The Egyptian afterlife saw the deceased go through a series of challenges before having their heart weighed in the Hall of Truth. If they were lucky and their heart weighed less than the white feather of Ma'at, the soul would then cross over Lily

“IF YOUR HEART WAS FOUND TO BE TOO HEAVY, IT WOULD BE THROWN ON THE FLOOR”

Lake to reach the Field of Reeds - but they needed to know how to get there. That's where the Book of the Dead came in, providing a manual of sorts for navigating the afterlife and reaching paradise. According to historian Margaret Bunson, it contained details on how to “overcome the dangers of the afterlife by enabling them to assume the form of several mythical creatures and to give them the passwords necessary.”

By the time of the New Kingdom, the books were commonplace instead of being reserved for the wealthy. They were custom-made by scribes, with individual spells and passwords for each individual

as each journey through the afterlife was different. Depending on the life that had been lived, different spells would be written and the number would depend on how much could be afforded, but there was one spell that almost every copy featured: Spell 125. This was what you had to say to Osiris, Thoth, Anubis and the 42 judges in the Hall of Truth as your heart was weighed. Saying the right thing was incredibly important - if your heart was found to be too heavy, it would be thrown on the floor to be eaten by the monster goddess Ammut and your soul would cease to exist.

Some have taken the Book to be a magic book, full of spells for transformations. However, this has been vehemently refuted as the spells would only work in the afterlife. And the afterlife was a guarantee - it just might have ended in the Hall of Truth if you didn't have your trusty guide on you.

SET PEN TO PAPER

This particular Book of the Dead was written on papyrus, although others were on linen. However, the earliest spells were engraved on the walls of tombs instead of the deceased being buried with their guide.

GOD REST HIS SOUL

The gods were arguably the most important part when it came to reaching the Field of Reeds, which was a continuation of life on Earth. The gods had to be pleased and revered. Here, Anubis is weighing the deceased's heart while Osiris and Isis both look on.

A PERSONAL TOUCH

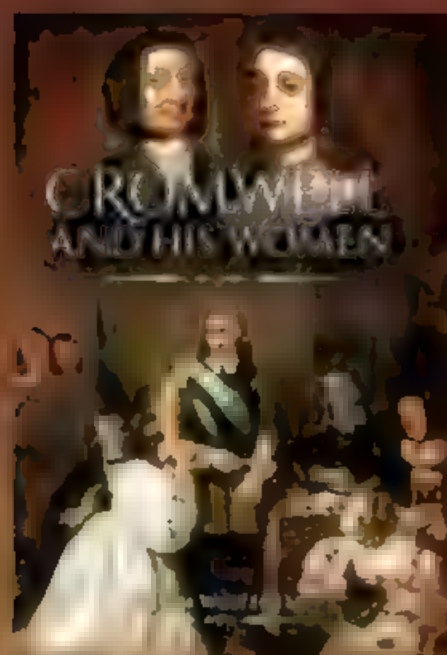
Nany had been a singer of Amun, and her Book of the Dead was personalised to include her in the illustrations. In this image she stands next to the scales while Anubis weighs her heart - luckily, she has been found worthy of continuing to the Field of Reeds.

AT GREAT LENGTH

These scrolls could be incredibly long. Nany's comes in at 5.215 metres in length and 35 centimetres in height, but others, like the Greenfield Papyrus, reaches a staggering 37 metres.

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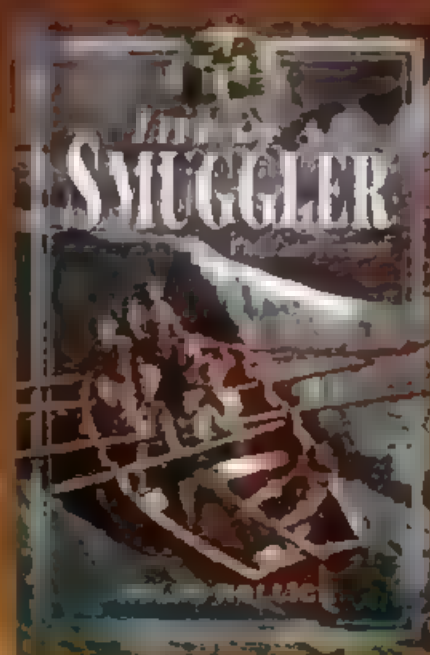
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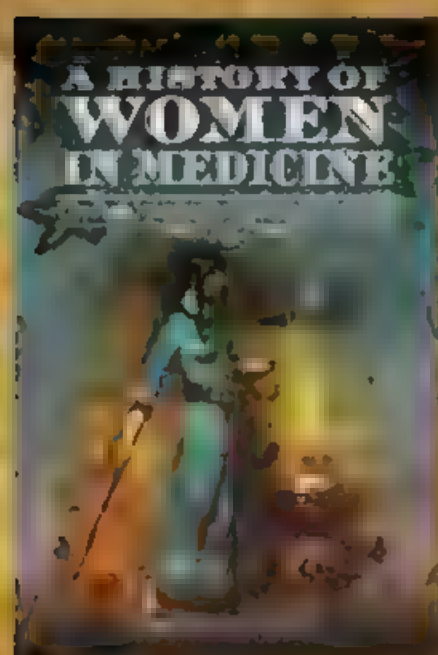
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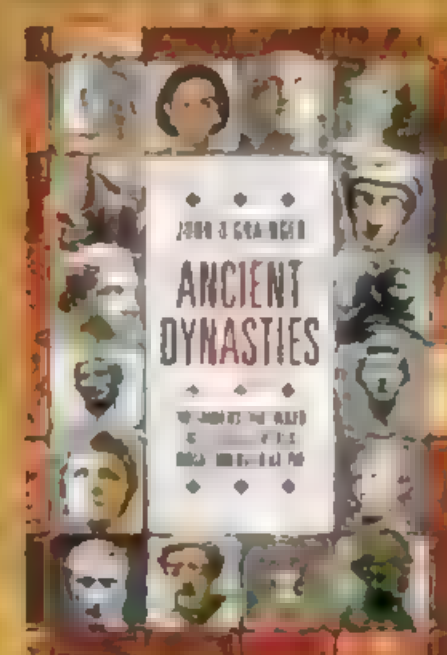
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Born To Roam



ERIK THE RED AND THE VIKING EXPLORERS

Braving freezing oceans, icebergs and storms, the Norse explorers made amazing discoveries - just how did they do it?

Written by Ben Gazzar



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Erik the Red was the first Norseman to explore and settle Greenland and encouraged others to live in his new land

On 6 June 793 CE death washed over Lindisfarne, the most holy island in Britain. From across the seas longships sailed to strip the gold and treasures from the churches of the island. The warriors that waded ashore struck down the holy men and tore out anything they could find of value. A record of the time describes how "the heathens poured out the blood of saints around the altar, and trampled on the bodies of saints in the temple of God, like dung in the streets." So it was that the Viking Age had begun.

At the time people were shocked that such a sacred location could be targeted. Little did they know that it was only the first of many such attacks throughout Britain and Europe. Even today when we think of the Norse we picture gore-spattered Vikings hefting war-axes. Yet this is to misunderstand the situation. Viking comes from the old Norse word *Vikingr*, which specifically referred to those who took part in raids. Very few Norse would have been raiders and even then it was an activity only undertaken for part of each year. Most Norse stayed at home without ever causing the least fright to anyone.

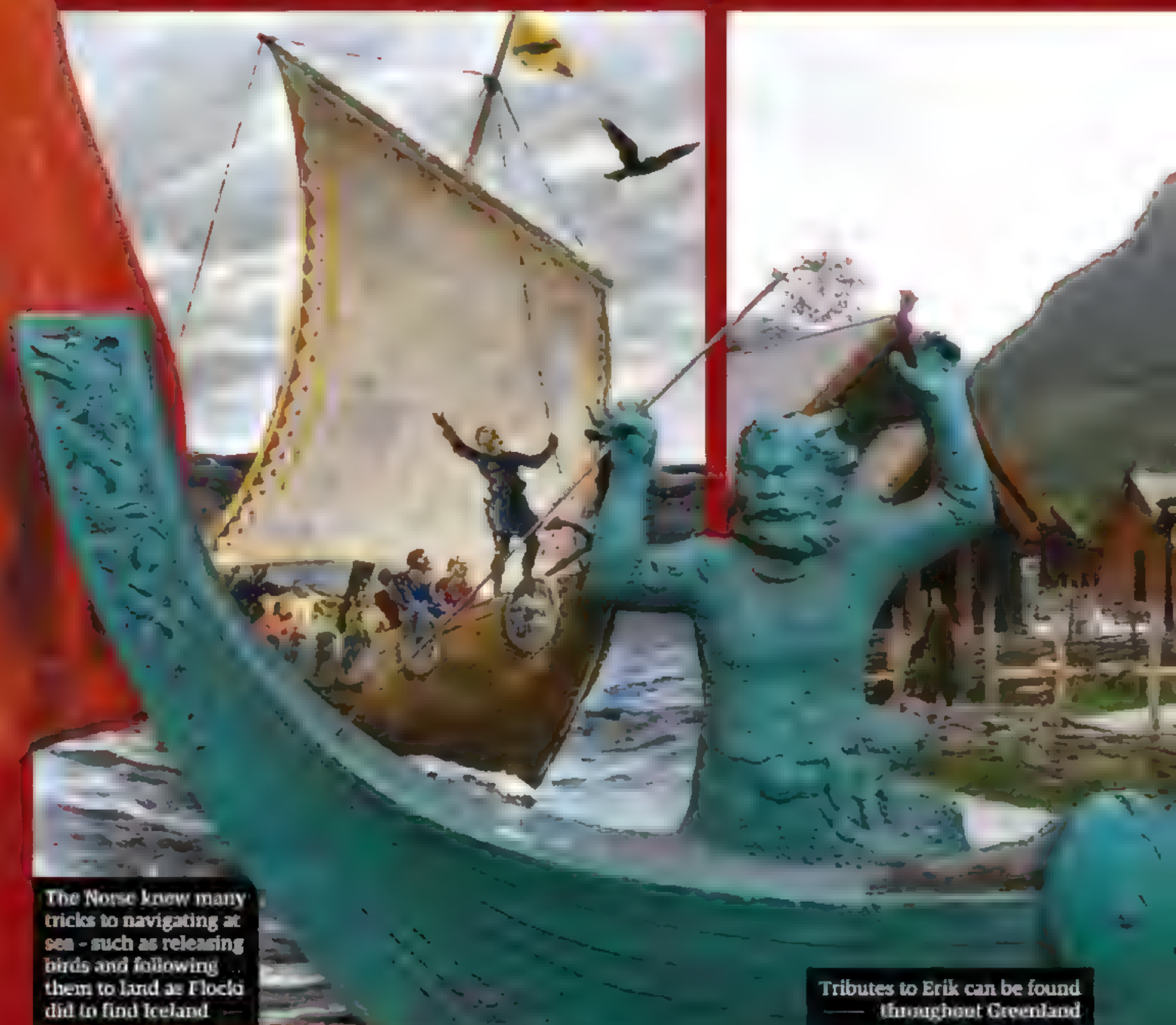
Linking the settled Norse life with the ocean-crossing Vikings were the great explorers. Evidence of Norse trade and Norse travellers can be found over a particularly vast area.

In Athens and Constantinople they left runic inscriptions that can still be seen today. An Indian bronze Buddha has been found on an island near Stockholm that reveals the vast trading network the Norse participated in. South, east and north the Norse pushed outwards, yet perhaps the most amazing voyages the Norse made were into the west. This is the story of Erik the Red, Leif the Lucky, and the others who led the Norse into North America.

SEA-STEEDS & WAVE-SWINE

For the early Middle Ages seas and rivers were the motorways that allowed fast and easy transport of goods and people. Norse ships rode the ocean waves but could also exploit their shallow design to pass far up rivers and beach ships where there was no harbour. Ships became the emblem of Norse success with everything from jewellery to tombs to children's toys being shaped like them. To steer a ship across the ocean took years to master. Yet many steps in Norse exploration occurred by accident.

By the 9th century the Norse had settled in northern England, the Orkneys, Shetland and the Faroe Islands. While travelling from Norway to Faroe a Norse mariner called Naddodd was hit by contrary winds. The weather drove Naddodd to a huge new island. Climbing a peak to search for human habitation he found no sign



The Norse knew many tricks to navigating at sea - such as releasing birds and following them to land as Floki did to find Iceland

Tributes to Erik can be found throughout Greenland

Erik The Red And The Viking Explorers

"IT BEGAN TO SNOW SO HE CALLED HIS NEW DISCOVERY SNOWLAND. SOON OTHERS WOULD CALL IT ICELAND"

of smoke from fires. On the way back to his ship it began to snow so he called his new discovery Snowland. Soon though, others would call it Iceland, and home.

ROOM TO BREATHE

With all the attendant dangers of sea travel you might think the Norse would be happy enough at home. The Icelandic sagas give us clues about what drove people to cross oceans at the risk of losing everything, including their lives. There is a world of dangers where family feuds may claim the lives of hundreds over generations. In Egil's Saga a disagreement over a ball game ends with one man having his brains dashed out with an axe. Perhaps compared to life on shore the sea did not seem so risky.

Yet for all the apparent brutality theirs was also a world of laws and kings. It may be the kings that drove many from their homes. Many sagas begin with Harald Tangle-Hair. He promised not to cut his hair until he had united all of Norway under his rule. When he did he transformed himself into Harald Fair-Hair. In the

sagas the free-minded landowners of Norway cannot stomach being ruled over by him and the *Saga Of Hord And The People Of Holm* describes how "They would rather leave their property in Norway than suffer aggression and injustice." The *Laxdale Saga* has a character declare "I will follow the example of noble men, and fly this land." They gathered their families, friends, household goods, and even the temples of their gods into their ships and crossed the ocean in search of new lands. In Iceland they found it.

The first deliberate trip to Iceland in the wake of Naddodd's unexpected trip was performed by Floki Vilgerðarson some time in the 9th century. Setting out from the Faroe Isles he carried three ravens on board. Being unable to land on water ravens would only fly away if they could see land. The first raven released flew back to the Faroes. The second settled back on the ship. When the third disappeared into the north-west he knew Iceland was nearby.

Now that Iceland was fixed in the Norse mind others began to settle there. According to tradition the first settler was Ingólfr Arnarson.

*Þóroeris, vel Þóroaldis tæknir. Þóroeris-sonur
sabit úlf. úlfur gæti farið á norðlænda, gígur þóroeris,
vin Eriks. Eriks-sonur
Þóroeris-sonur farið Eriks af þessari landi*



*Eriks-sonur Eriks-sonur D. Delmarcus
vin Eriks-sonur Eriks-sonur*

*i Norvegi i bláum
þem hafa eiririr vörp*

Thanks to his legendary status, Erik's tale has been adapted by many cultures



Reconstructions of the archaeological discoveries at L'Anse aux Meadows show how the Norse in Vinland would have lived in the New World



LIFE AT HOME

What happened to those who did not take to the ships with the explorers?

When Viking raiders or Norse explorers departed they left behind a civilisation that had to function without them. In the relatively densely populated Norway they may not have been missed at all. On Iceland the basic unit of society was the farm, and any shortage of hands could be sorely missed.

Life on an Icelandic farm could be difficult. The livestock had to be tended to and protected. Children were given the job of watching over sheep and goats not only to save the animals from harm but to stop them munching on the crops. Fields of oats, rye and barley provided the main cereals and much depended on the soil. On Greenland farms required twice as much land to produce the same amount as those on Iceland. Milk from cows, sheep and goats had to be collected. The *Kálgaðr* ('Cabbage Garden') was a fenced area where kitchen vegetables were grown.

Special laws were enacted to make another person's *Kálgaðr* inviolable to stop the theft of veg. As well as seeing to food there was the daily business of staying alive and kitted out. Wool needed to be turned to cloth. Smiths, woodworkers and masons were needed to maintain homes. When the powerful men left they would set an overseer on their farms to manage the workers and collect rents. The toil could seem endless.

Yet there was fun and laughter for those left behind. Erik the Red's saga tells of a Yule celebration and a winter passed where "many board games were played, there was storytelling, and plenty of other entertainment to lighten the life of the household." With access to farm and community, amenities explorers and raiders lacked on the high sea, people were able to feast and celebrate. For children there were toys like little model horses, or polar bears carved from wood.

Born To Roam

who took his family to escape from a blood feud. On reaching Iceland he cast the wooden pillar of his chieftain's seat into the sea, declaring he would settle wherever the gods guided them to wash ashore. This may strike us as an unusual method of choosing a home but the Norse sagas tell of other settlers following washed-up temple carvings and coffins containing the dead buried at sea.

The greatest advantage Iceland offered was the prospect of unsettled land. In Britain or Ireland a new home had to be carved out from an already populated area. On Iceland the only difficulty was choosing where you wanted to live. Even in unpopulated regions, though, some will still find reasons to quarrel.

BEYOND THE SUNSET

Erik the Red seems to have had a knack for both discovery and disagreement. Two sagas that feature his tale, *The Greenlanders Saga* and *The Saga Of Erik The Red*, both describe him as a fighter. Forced from Norway because of involvement in slayings, Erik settled in Iceland. The change of scenery did him no good and he soon killed Eyrhulf the Foul and a famed dueller called Hrafn. A feud threatened to draw in other families and disrupt the whole island. Erik needed to move on again, but where to?

At some point in the late 10th century there had been another lucky accident for the Norse. A ship captained by Gunnbjörn Ulfsson travelling from Norway to Iceland was swept off course and into the west. He spotted some small islands but did not land, opting to return to his intended target. A later trip, recorded in a lost saga by Snæbjörn Galti was the first by the Norse to land on Greenland and the first contact of the Norse with the American continent. Rumours of these discoveries reached Erik just at the moment he needed an escape from Iceland.

Erik equipped a ship for a voyage and gathered a crew for this chancy trip. Perhaps he followed the advice given in *The King's Mirror*, a later Norse text, which tells a traveller to "always buy shares in good vessels or in none at all. Keep your ship attractive, for then capable men will join you and it will be well manned. Erik would learn the importance of

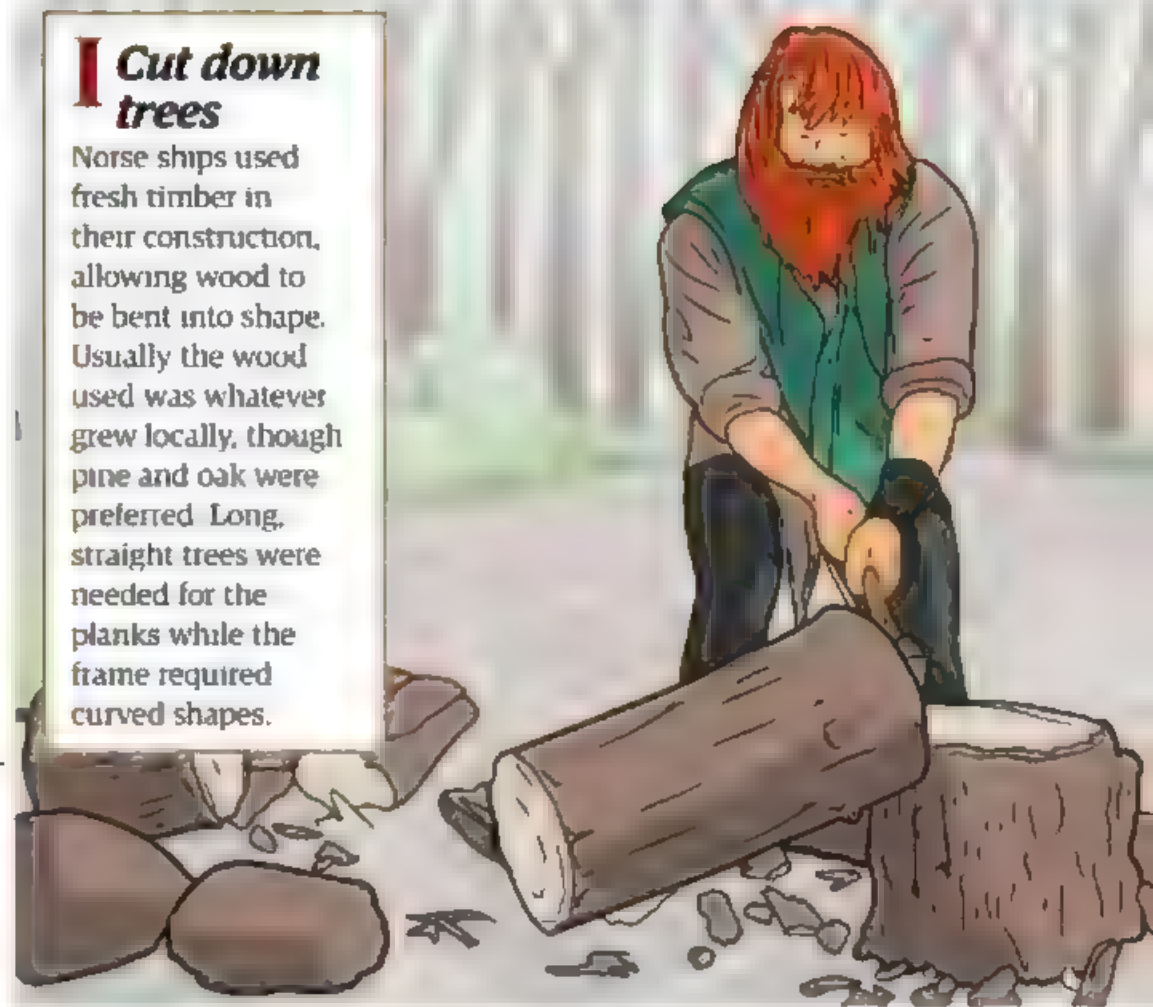


9 STEPS TO LAUNCH A VIKING VOYAGE

Before you set out on an adventure here are the things you need to do

1 Cut down trees

Norse ships used fresh timber in their construction, allowing wood to be bent into shape. Usually the wood used was whatever grew locally, though pine and oak were preferred. Long, straight trees were needed for the planks while the frame required curved shapes.



4 Gather your supplies

Food on board a longship would be very basic. The most common food was a type of porridge called 'nest' or 'farnest'. Plenty of it was taken as men would eat a kilogram of food per day. Salted fish might also be taken to add some variety to the diet.



7 Pray to your gods

In the Sagas pagan Norse made sacrifices before voyages. After the conversion to Christianity ships were sometimes prayed over. But one Viking, Hielgi, preferred to hedge his bets by believing in "Jesus on land, but Thor at sea."



Figureheads were intended to scare enemies and evil spirits out at sea

Erik The Red And The Viking Explorers

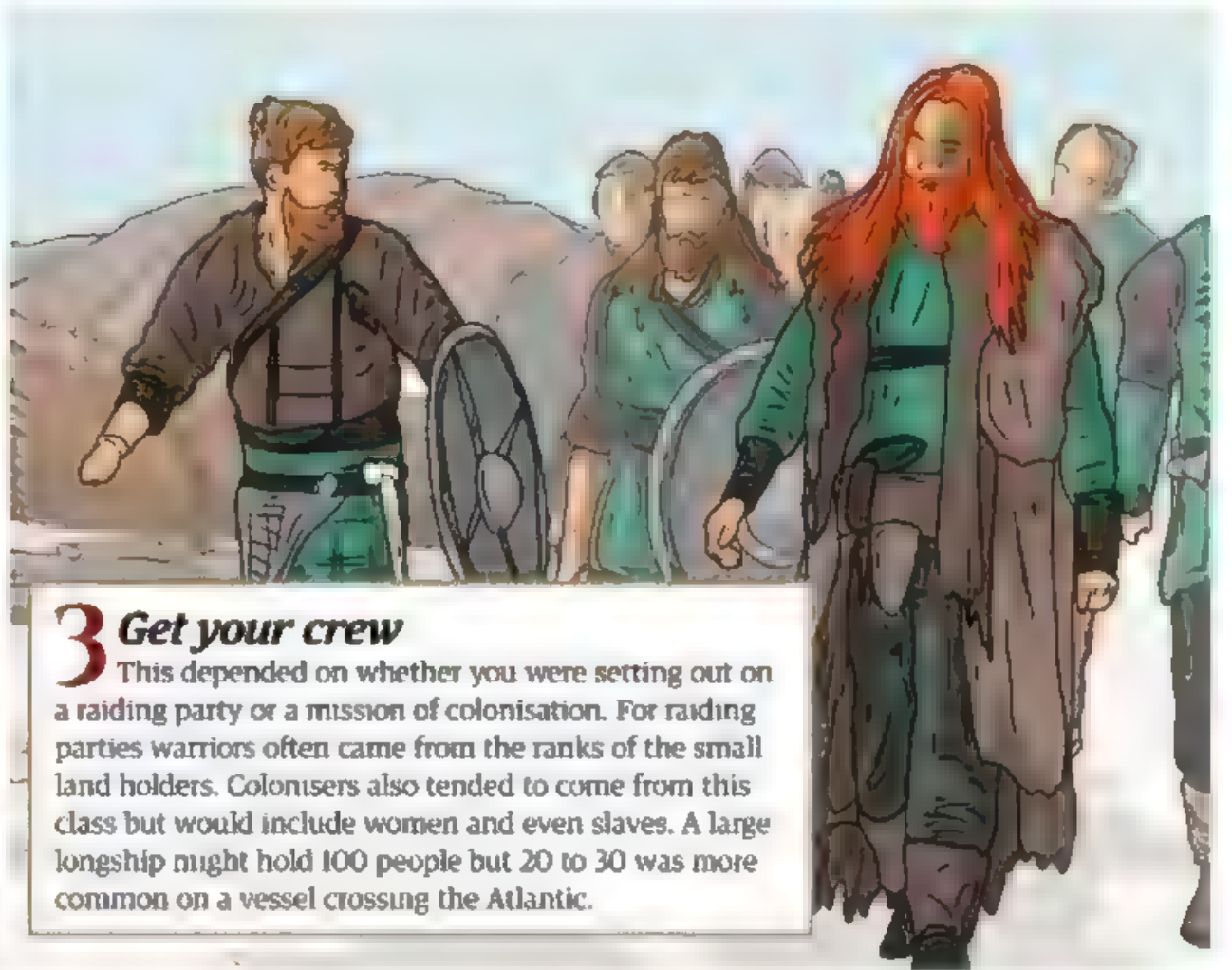
2 Build your ship

Master craftsmen used simple tools like the axe or adze to shape wood for ship construction and the whole thing was held together by metal rivets. A warship could be built in a single winter. Cracks between planks as they settle were stuffed with moss or animal hair mixed with tar.



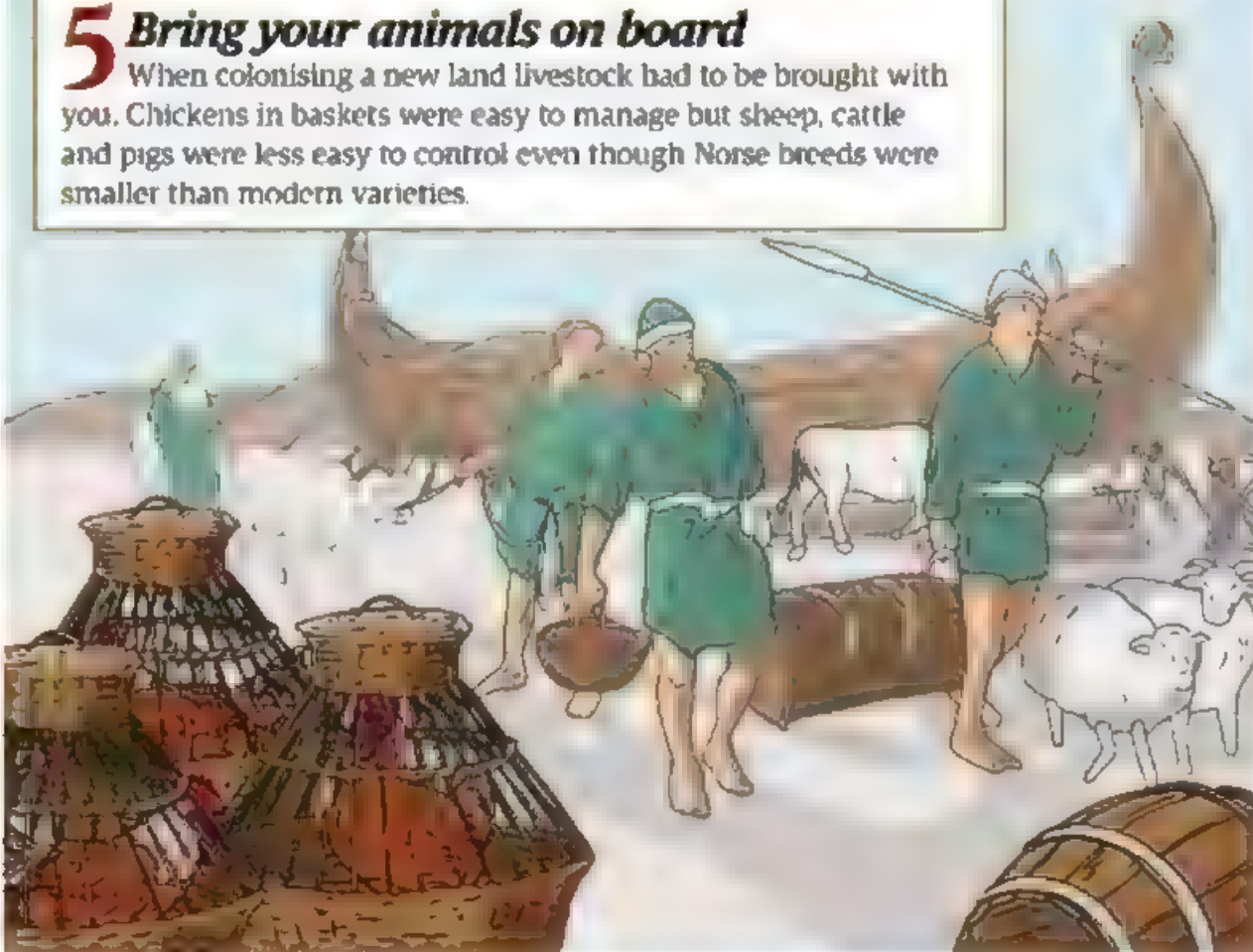
3 Get your crew

This depended on whether you were setting out on a raiding party or a mission of colonisation. For raiding parties warriors often came from the ranks of the small land holders. Colonisers also tended to come from this class but would include women and even slaves. A large longship might hold 100 people but 20 to 30 was more common on a vessel crossing the Atlantic.



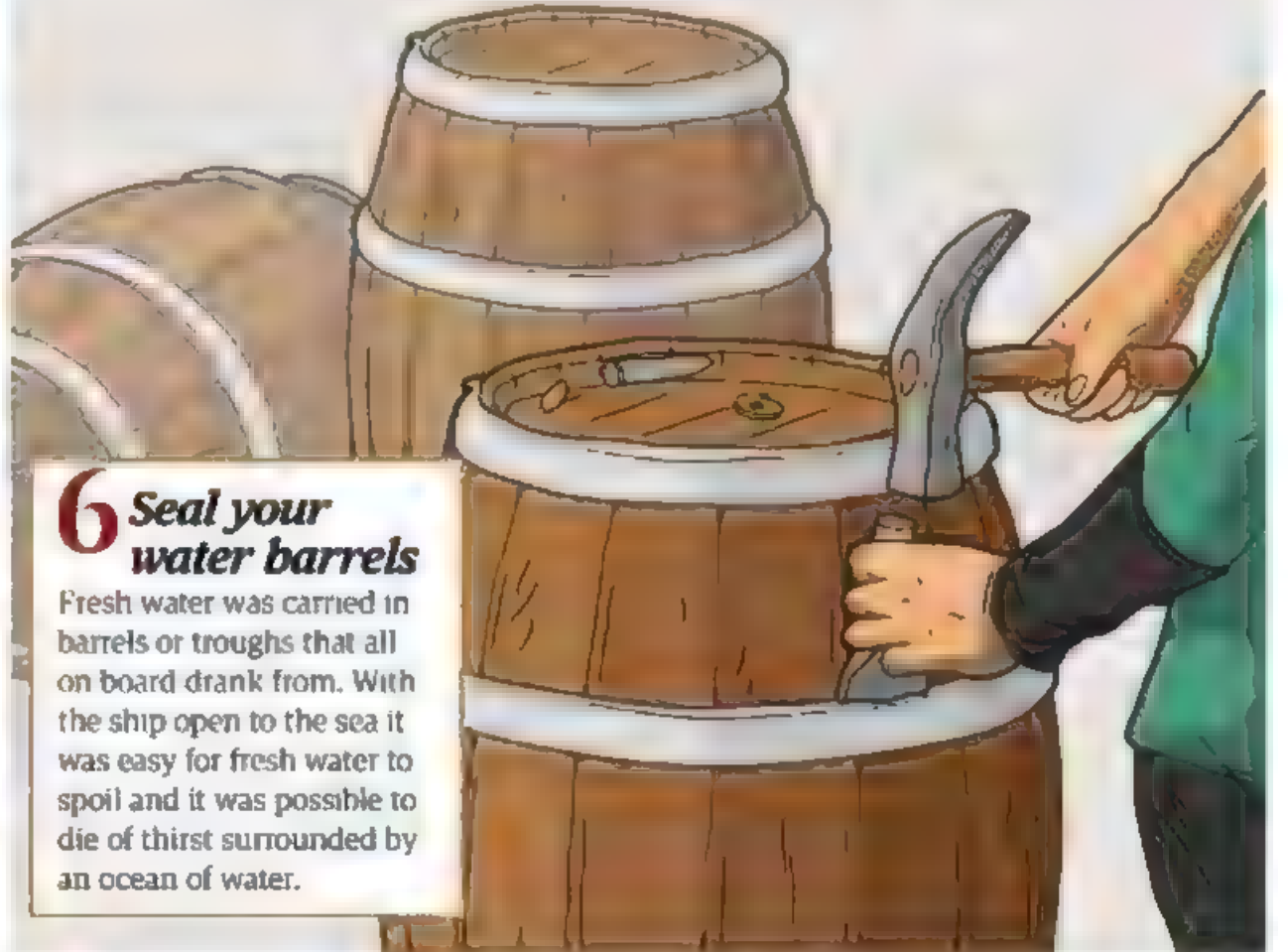
5 Bring your animals on board

When colonising a new land livestock had to be brought with you. Chickens in baskets were easy to manage but sheep, cattle and pigs were less easy to control even though Norse breeds were smaller than modern varieties.



6 Seal your water barrels

Fresh water was carried in barrels or troughs that all on board drank from. With the ship open to the sea it was easy for fresh water to spoil and it was possible to die of thirst surrounded by an ocean of water.



8 Set your sails

While Viking longships were equipped with oars on the ocean they relied on sails to catch the wind. The single square sail offered manoeuvrability. Repair material was taken to mend it if needed.



9 Navigate

Vikings used the sun and stars to steer their ships. Studying wildlife like birds and whales also gave clues as to the direction of land. The Vikings may also have used crystals to find where the sun was on cloudy days.



"HE CALLED IT GREENLAND – A COUNTRY WITH A GOOD NAME, HE SAID, WOULD ATTRACT MORE SETTLERS"

public relations well. The same book asks why it is men make such perilous trips. "One motive is fame and rivalry... A second motive is curiosity for it is also in man's nature to wish to see the things he has heard about... The third is desire for gain: for men seek wealth wherever they have heard that gain is to be gotten, though, on the other hand, there may be great dangers too." All of these could apply to Erik, as well as his more urgent need to flee. To his friends he promised he'd return if he succeeded in discovering this land below the horizon.

From Iceland Erik quickly made landfall. A tumbling wilderness of rock and cracking ice covered his new land. Glaciers bore icebergs down to the ravenous sea so Erik took his ship to scout for more welcoming homes. In summer they searched and in winter they hunkered down to survive the crushing cold. After three years of exploring Erik returned to Iceland to announce his discoveries. He called it Greenland – a country with a good name, he said, would attract more settlers. He was right. The next year he led a fleet of 25 ships to Greenland, though only 14 arrived.

VINLAND THE GOOD

Erik's Greenland prospered. Never to be as populous as Iceland, its soil and growing season being more difficult, Greenland did offer opportunities for those willing to take risks. Many things necessary to survival had to be imported to Greenland: iron and timber were the most obviously lacking goods but these could be bought from traders. The Sagas describe how an arriving ship soon became a bustling market. In return for the required wood and iron traders would leave with commodities highly sought after back in Europe. Greenland offered hunters walrus ivory, whales and animals skins. The best ships' ropes were made from walrus hide which had the additional benefit of being an emergency ration. When one ship was wrecked the crew ate the walrus hide with butter. Supported by these trades Greenland survived and traders grew rich.

One trader who made the rounds of Norse settlements was called Bjarni. While trying to reach Greenland Bjarni apparently took a wrong turn. He had warned his crew before departure that "Our voyage must be regarded as foolhardy, seeing that not one of us has ever been in the Greenland Sea." Winds turned savage and dense fog descended. Eventually they sighted land. Three times Bjarni's crew asked him if the various lands they sailed past were Greenland, and three times Bjarni thought they did not match the descriptions of Greenland he had

heard. Finally the ship, struggling eastward, found Greenland. Perhaps understandably Bjarni gave up his voyaging after this.

On Greenland Erik the Red had created a new home for himself and his sons. Word of Bjarni's journey reached there and many mocked the hapless captain for being utterly spiritless – he had not bothered to explore his exciting discoveries. Leif, Erik's son, went to Bjarni to hear of his trip. Leif tried to convince Erik to join him in one last adventure but Erik thought himself too old. He had had enough of salt spray and freezing storms for one lifetime. No more shivering on a deck with only a leather sack called a hudfat to sleep in for Erik.

Leif's exploration soon found that the first island Bjarni had discovered was nothing but a flat and rocky outcrop dominated by mountains of ice. The next land they found was flat and wooded, with broad and safe beaches of sand. Even this promising land did not content Leif and the ship sailed further. In the final land they discovered the crew found the grass covered with a sweet dew, rivers and lakes stocked with fat fish, and finally they discovered vines with juicy fruit. This land Leif called Vinland, and he thought it good.

THE VINLAND SAGAS

Others heard of Leif's discovery and soon wanted to follow. Leif's brother Thorvald was among the most eager. Using his brother's ship Thorvald explored Vinland's wooded expanses and the islands filled with animals to hunt. After a year of exploring Vinland Thorvald found a location that he thought would make a good homestead. While returning to his boat he saw three skin canoes on the shore, each with three men underneath. The Norse had met the Native Americans for the first time. The encounter turned bloody. Eight of the natives, Skraelings as the Norse called them, were instantly killed. The ninth fled into the woods. Only now did Thorvald see villages in the distance.

The Norsemen returned to their ship but more canoes spilled into the bay surrounding them. Thorvald had his men put up their shields as arrows fell on them from all sides. Most clattered harmlessly into the sea but one ricocheted in and struck Thorvald under the arm. Mortally wounded, the captain was taken ashore and buried at the spot he had picked out for his home. His crew gathered wood and fruit, so valuable in Greenland, and returned home.

Back in Greenland another of Erik the Red's sons, Thorstein, was determined to recover the body of his dead brother. Along with his crew of dependable men Thorstein took his wife

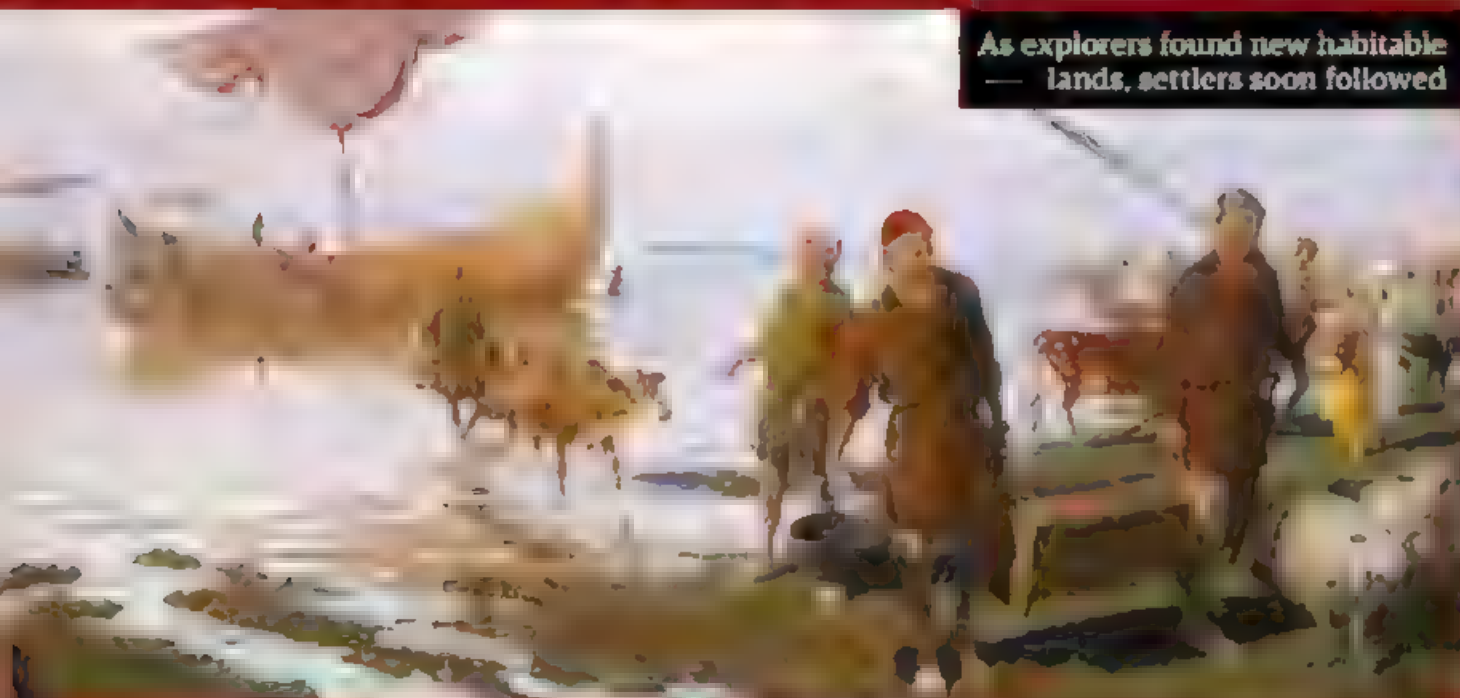
Leif the Lucky, son of Erik the Red, followed in his father's explorations by voyaging beyond Greenland and into North America



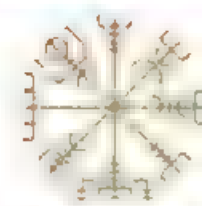
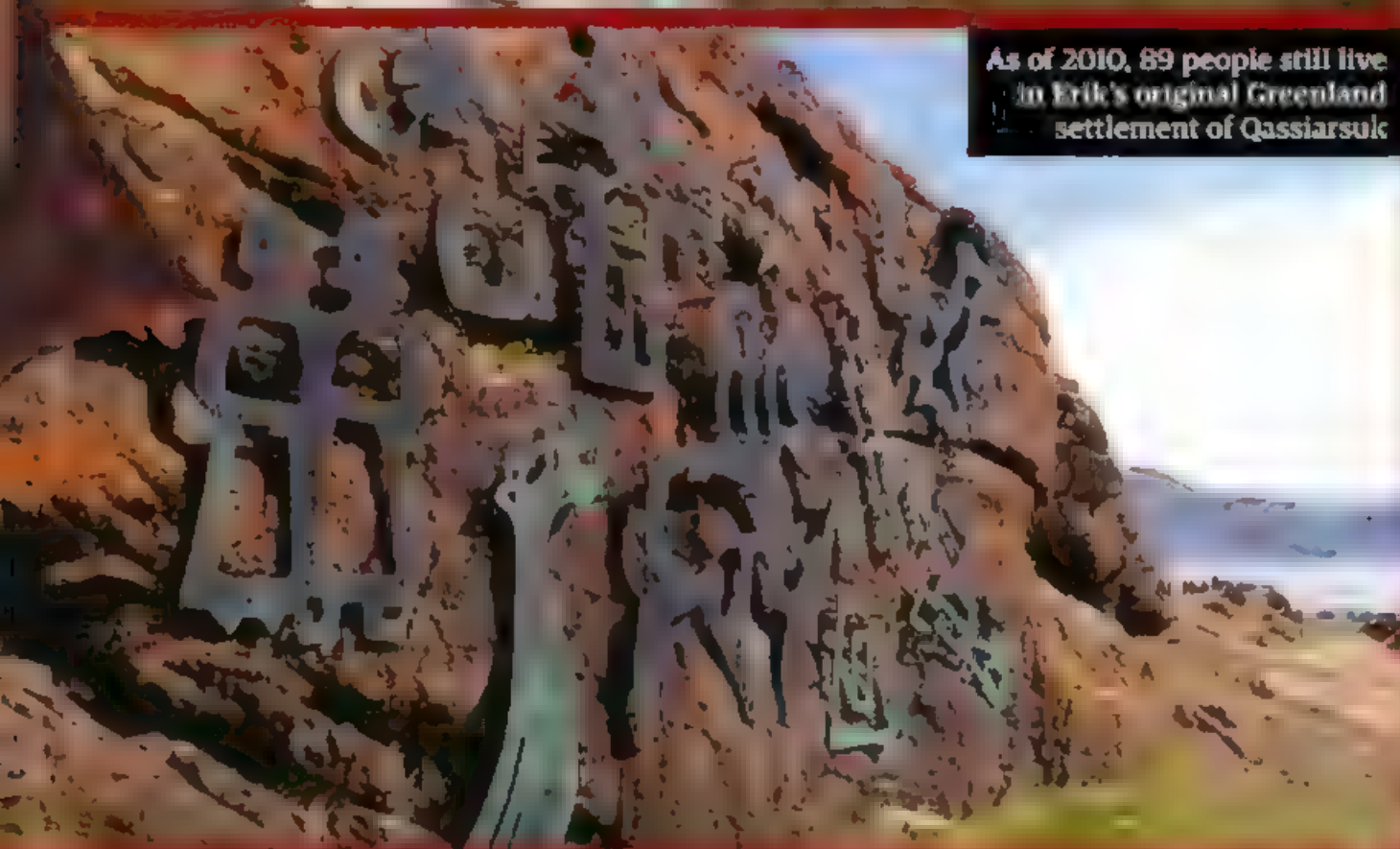
Leif could count Naddodd, discoverer of Iceland, as a distant relative



As explorers found new habitable lands, settlers soon followed



As of 2010, 89 people still live in Erik's original Greenland settlement of Qassiarsuk



REVIVING THE VIKINGS

The Viking world was richer, more marvellous and wider than most people today imagine, says writer and historian Eduardo Albert



In general, how accurate is the pop culture image of Vikings?

Not accurate at all! The various TV series and films featuring Vikings in one form

or another are written by 21st-century writers with 21st-century sensibilities setting out to appeal to a 21st-century audience. They're no more accurate than Technicolor Medieval fantasies of Hollywood's Golden Age (in fact, those highly coloured old movies got one thing more accurately than more recent films and TV: Medieval people loved bright colours and painted everything they could apply a coat of paint to in garish hues).

Is there a link between Viking raiders and the Norse age of exploration?

Yes. The key technological advance that made Viking raids profitable and possible was the perfection of the design of the longship. These beautiful, swift and seaworthy vessels were also surprisingly light, making portages possible for the Swedish Vikings who headed upstream along the major rivers of Russia and then down to the Black Sea and Constantinople. For the explorers of the North Atlantic, a range of navigational techniques and lore, including sun-stones, deep knowledge of tides and currents, and careful observation of the sea and sea birds, allowed the Viking explorers to travel further than anyone had done before. Such skills came in useful when applied to more violent pursuits.

What do you know of life on a Norse ship on a long voyage?

It was tough. The ship was open to the elements, and at most of the latitudes at which the Vikings operated the weather was fickle and the water cold. People who have sailed reconstructed longships long distances have emerged from the experience marvelling at the fortitude of the men who sailed these boats originally.

Do we have a sense of how planned the expansion of the Norse into other nations was?

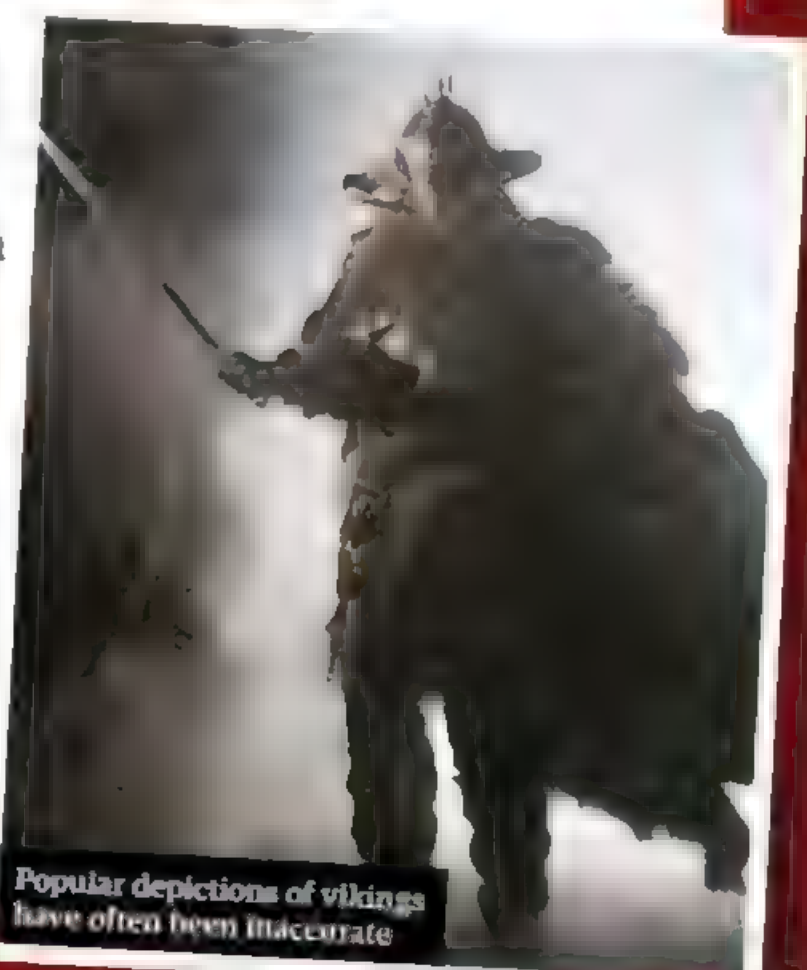
There was certainly no plan at the start: simply men out to make money. However, there is some indication that, as the Viking Age progressed and the fleets became larger, kings and other magnates played a significant part in planning the ventures, culminating in attacks such as Sweyn Forkbeard's conquest of England and Harald Hardrada's later attempt to grab the English crown.

What do you think brought an end to the Viking age?

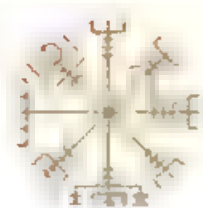
The increasing strength and organisation of the other European kingdoms. The Viking Age began amid the breakdown of the Carolingian Empire, and it flourished so long as the central power of kings was weak. But as the kings consolidated their power over their kingdoms, the risks associated with raiding slowly began to outweigh the potential profits.



Conrad Monk And The Great Heathen Army by Eduardo Albert is published by Endeavour Quill and out now.



Popular depictions of vikings have often been inaccurate



SAGAS – FACT OR FICTION?

Are the sagas ancient history or fantastic tales for fools?

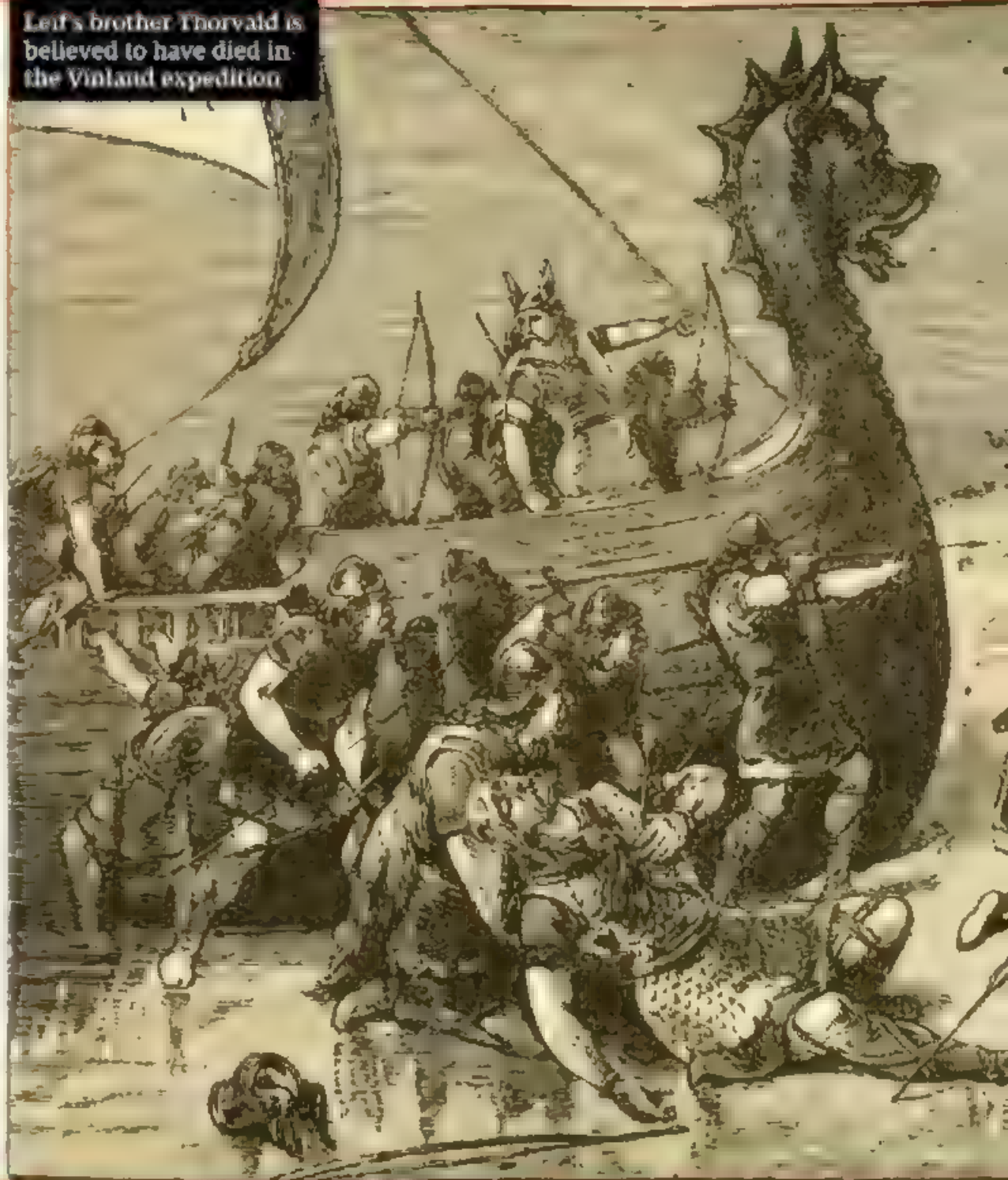
There is no single collection of works called the sagas. The sagas are a series of prose works created at various times and in various places. Most were written in the 13th and 14th centuries but recall events from 9th, 10th, and 11th centuries. Some deal with purely fictional events and people but others contain historical records. How are we to sort the fact from the fiction in the sagas?

On the surface there are many events that can be safely categorised as imaginary. Where the *Saga Of The Greenlanders* has Thorvald killed by a Skraeling's arrow the *Saga Of Erik The Red* has him felled by the shot of a uniped - a human with a single leg and huge foot. Both agree Thorvald died but one is clearly more plausible than the other. Other tales feature ghosts and the undead, things we mostly ignore, but they may well have

shaped Norse life if the Norse themselves believed strongly in them. The sagas no doubt preserve earlier oral accounts of the past but must be viewed as suspect in many ways. No one truly believed that the Norse reached North America.

Then in 1960s Helge and Anne Stine Ingstad discovered the remains of Norse habitation at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland. The site contains the remnants of three houses, four workshops and a forge all built in the same style as those found in Iceland and Greenland. Dating of the site places it around 1000 CE, exactly when the sagas describe Leif as visiting Vinland. We may never know the full extent of Norse exploration in the New World but archaeological corroboration means the sagas cannot be ignored any longer.

Leif's brother Thorvald is believed to have died in the Vinland expedition



This statue of Leif overlooks the small settlement his father founded

“THEY DISCOVERED VINES WITH JUICY FRUIT. THIS LAND LEIF CALLED VINLAND, AND HE THOUGHT IT GOOD”



Erik The Red And The Viking Explorers



Erik was banished from Iceland for killing two men, just as his father had been banished from Norway.



The Sverd i fjell (Sword in Rock) monument was built in 1983, but is evocative of the viking era.

Gudrid. Gales and storms drove the expedition back to Greenland and a winter had to be spent depending on the dubious hospitality of a gloomy man. Life on Greenland was precarious and disease killed many that winter including Thorstein. The now widowed Gudrid returned to Leif's home in the spring and there was married to a wealthy captain called Thorfin Karlsefni. Many still dreamed of settling Vinland and so under Karlsefni a new voyage was planned. He led a crew of 60 men and five women, all promised an equal share of the voyage's profits.

Karlsefni found the camp Leif had earlier erected and they repaired it. Food was not plentiful and when a whale was driven onto the beach and butchered for meat and fat one saga describes the meat as making them ill. The livestock they brought with them fared well in the mild climate and the colony survived. That summer the Skraelings came to the Norse camp. They traded furs and other goods for Norse cheese, milk and red cloth. Peaceable trade between the two people seemed to profit both but Karlsefni still had a wooden barricade set up to protect their home. There, in safety, Gudrid gave birth to the first European born in America - a son called Snorri.

Trouble erupted when during one trade with the Skraelings a Norse weapon was seized. The Skraeling was put to the sword and the others fled. The Norse prepared for battle and managed to scatter the Skraelings but the land no longer

seemed safe for settlement. Karlsefni loaded his ships with timber, furs and food and sailed back to Greenland.

The final voyage to Vinland recorded in the sagas involved Freydis, daughter of Erik the Red. The sagas paint her as a haughty woman full of treachery. Her bravery is shown in leading an expedition over the ocean and when attacked by Skraelings Freydis startled them to flight by baring one of her breasts and slapping it with a sword. But she cheated her partners by claiming the best land and the profits of their trip. Eventually the Norse split into two groups and Freydis led an attack against her enemies. While her husband and his men slew the warriors none would kill the women in the other camp so Freydis took an axe and killed all five of them. She swore her men to secrecy but back in Greenland word inevitably leaked out and Freydis was shunned by all. The adventures in Vinland had come to an end.

DECLINE & FALL

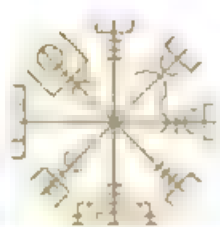
The sagas make it clear that the Norse in Iceland visited North America regularly for some time. While the sagas differ in their details as to what the Norse did there we know that no lasting settlements were set up. Why did Vinland, so promising in its plenty, fail when the less likely colonies in Iceland and Greenland survived?

While Vinland offered huge natural resources they were also incredibly distant. Iceland was

already considered the end of the world by most Norse back in Europe. On maps they show it only just south of the fabled land in the north called Thule. Trading ships were able to reach Iceland and Greenland from Europe but it may be that the journey to North America was simply too dangerous and too far. There were easier places to make a fortune. This became even more true as centuries passed. The plague came to Iceland in the 15th century and may have wiped out as many as two thirds of the population.

Even the longer-lasting settlements of Greenland eventually disappeared. In small populations small changes can have serious repercussions. When Erik the Red discovered Greenland the climate would have made it much greener than it is today. In the summers farmers could have produced enough fodder to keep livestock throughout the long winters. As the climate turned cooler in the Little Ice Age winters became harder. Bone analysis shows diets became poorer and more monotonous. Ice blocking fjords, even in the summer, meant fewer ships came to trade. Even when they did, there was less and less call for the walrus ivory that had kept Greenland's economy afloat.

In 1341 Ivar Bardarson visited northern Greenland and found the homes abandoned and farm animals grazing wild. The great age of Norse exploration was over. The people were gone but their tales of daring exploration still thrill us today.



VIKING VOYAGES

A closer look at the routes the great explorers took
and what drove their journeys forward

From exile to entrepreneur

Erik 'The Red' Thorvaldsson was banished from Iceland for three years, but spent his time well, exploring Greenland and seeking permanent settlement there. When he returned to Iceland he convinced 25 ships' worth of settlers to venture there. Only 14 ships survived the journey, but appear to have done in tough conditions.

Discovering the Americas

Leif Erikson, following the sighting of a fellow sailor, sort the mysterious lands west of Greenland and discovered what we know as Newfoundland. Travelling down the coast, his crew established a settlement for the winter around 1000 CE while a party continued to explore inland. The discovery of plentiful vines lead to Leif naming it Vinland.

Poor winds, good fortune

Bjarni Herjólfsson was attempting to reach Greenland when he was blown off course and sighted what we now know as Newfoundland, Canada. It was Bjarni who inspired Leif Erikson to attempt a voyage of nearly 3,000 kilometres to found the settlement of Vinland.

Born in America

Thorfinn Karlsefni followed in the wake of Leif Erikson and even married the widow of Leif's brother. Together he and Gudrid Thorbjarnardóttir had a son in Vinland once they settled there, believed to be the first recorded European born in the New World.

KEY

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|  | Early Voyages |  | Leif Erikson |
|  | Erik The Red |  | Thorfinn Karlsefni |
|  | Bjarni Herjólfsson |  | Homelands |
| | |  | Settlements |



Erik The Red And The Viking explorers



GREENLAND
SEA

Family business

The Viking explorer Naddodd is credited with discovering Iceland in 861. Apparently he was blown off course heading for the Faroe Islands. Erik The Red and by extension Leif Erikson are distantly related to him.

NORWEGIAN
SEA

DORICAN

Seeking trade

Many explanations for Viking expansion have been suggested, but one of the more compelling is that the collapse of the Western Roman Empire resulted in a massive decline in trading opportunities, forcing Scandinavian communities to seek new markets.

ICELAND

FAROE
ISLANDS

SHETLAND
ISLANDS

SCOTLAND

HEBRIDES

NORTH
SEA

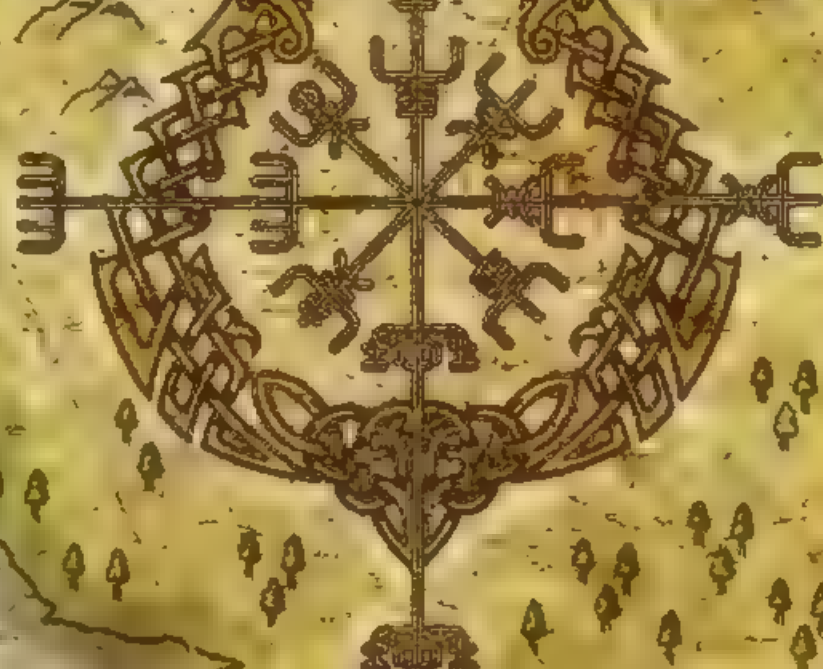
ENGLAND

Religion and riches

Regular attacks on English monasteries have been cited as evidence that in some way raids were a rebuke of Charlemagne's attempts to spread Christianity around Europe. Then again, such buildings they were also usually good sources of valuables.

First landings

The earliest record of 'Northmen' landing in England was 793 when Vikings raided the island of Lindisfarne. Regular raids continued until 865 when the previously uncoordinated bands joined together to form a more cohesive army and began conquering lands.



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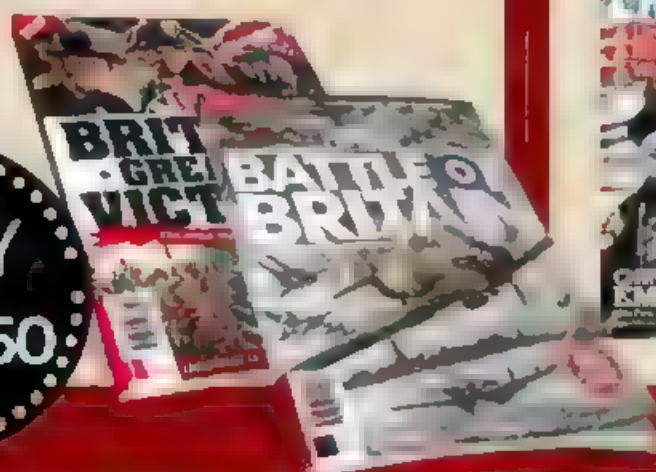
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Walter Raleigh's Hunt for El Dorado

How the quest for a mythic golden empire
in South America consumed the last 30
years of Sir Walter Raleigh's life

Written by Mathew Lyons

*N*ot many people have the distinction of putting a non-existent place on the map, but Sir Walter

Raleigh was one of them. That place was El Dorado, a legendary city of gold located in what is now Venezuela.

But even that word 'city' is too precise. El Dorado could at different times be a city, a kingdom, or an empire; later the search for it morphed into the search for a mine. At first, even, in the 1530s when the phrase first seems to have been coined by the Spanish conquistadors, it was a man covered head to foot in gold dust - el dorado, the golden one - a participant in a tribal ritual of the Chibcha in the Colombian Andes. Always, though, consciously or otherwise, it is a loose, seductive metaphor for the riches that might lie undiscovered in the vast northern hinterlands of south America.

The name may forever be associated with Raleigh. And, arguably, without Raleigh's own fame, El Dorado might have sunk into obscurity with the other mythic golden cities such as Paititi, Cibola or Quivira, which the Europeans believed existed in the Americas. But Raleigh

was by no means the first person to fall under its spell. In fact, by the time it reached him in the 1580s, the Spanish had made several attempts already to find it.

It is Raleigh, though, who ignites the story.

The dream begins

Raleigh seems have first learned of El Dorado in the early autumn 1586, almost certainly from a Spanish conquistador named Don Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa, who had been captured by Raleigh's privateers in August of that year while returning home across the Atlantic. With 30 years of experience in the New World behind him, Sarmiento was about as old a hand as you could get.

Thinking of the two great Incan and Aztec empires that Spain had conquered some 70 years earlier, the existence of a third can hardly have seemed as absurd to Raleigh as it does to us now.

It may even have been from Sarmiento that Raleigh heard of Don Antonio de Berrio, another conquistador, who believed he had reached the border of El Dorado in the Guiana Highlands on the upper reaches of the Orinoco in an epic 18-month trek that had concluded in 1585.





The Quest For Riches



Sir Walter Raleigh was later branded "such a stupid git" in a Beatles song...

Berio was in some senses Raleigh's principal rival: he would launch two more expeditions over the coming decade. And that rivalry embodies a key truth about El Dorado for Raleigh. It was, of course, always about the gold. But fighting over that gold with Spain sharpened its importance: if Raleigh found El Dorado he would be bringing England a fortune that would rival the flood of American treasure on which Spanish power gorged. Without that wealth, as Raleigh later pungently said, Spain's monarchy would be merely "kings of figs and oranges".

Race for the prize

Whether Raleigh would ever have gone in search of El Dorado if he had remained in Elizabeth I's favour is a moot point. But in 1592 he secretly married Bess Throckmorton, one of Elizabeth's ladies in waiting, for which insolence Elizabeth sent both of them to the Tower. They would not stay there, but Bess was banished from court and Walter's star seemed permanently tarnished. The conquest of El Dorado, then, would be a suitably grand - and vastly enriching - way to erase the mis-steps of the past.

In 1594, Raleigh sent one of his men, Jacob Whiddon, on a reconnaissance mission to the coast around Trinidad and the Orinoco delta, which covers some 16,000 square miles. The following year he raised the enormous sum of £60,000 to finance the expedition. (By way of comparison, Frobisher's first voyage to find the North West Passage in 1577 had cost £875.) The

"There was never any prison in England that could be found more unsavoury and loathsome"

fleet was originally intended to be eight-strong, but Raleigh was impatient to be away. He left from Plymouth with four ships and perhaps 250 men on 6 February 1595.

Raleigh's ships were off the coast of South America - at Trinidad, to be precise - by 22 March. On 7 April, in the evening, Raleigh's men attacked the Spanish garrison at the island's colonial capital, San José. This was a strategic necessity: Raleigh could not safely go upriver and leave his ships at the mercy of the enemy. But there was another goal too: Raleigh had discovered that Berrio himself was in San José, and he wanted to talk. "I gathered from him as much of Guiana as he knew," Raleigh wrote. This included, tantalisingly, the story of a master of munitions named Juan Martínez, who Berrio told him had lived in Manoa for seven months and, Berrio said, gave the city its Spanish name, El Dorado. How close to his prize Raleigh must have felt, hearing this.

Further on and higher up

Most of what we know of what happened next comes from Raleigh's own account written on his return to England, *The Discoverie Of Empire Of Guiana*, which was widely read. It is, in its own way, a fascinating document, at once evocative, evasive and utterly compelling.

But it is not a success story. Raleigh took his men upriver with enough food for a month. Conditions - and morale - were dreadful: a hundred men, five small, shallow open-topped boats, torrential rains, intense heat, no real direction. They were "driven to lie in the rain and weather in the open air - without shift, lying most sluttishly - in the burning sun, and upon the

Raleigh's quest for El Dorado has fascinated people down the centuries



Sir Walter Raleigh



The journey through South America's rivers was long and arduous

Walter Raleigh's Hunt For El Dorado

hard boards [of the boats, also used to] dress our meat..." Raleigh wrote. "Wherewith they were so pestered and unsavoury, that what with victuals being most fish, with the wet clothes of so many men thrust together, and the heat of the sun, I will undertake there was never any prison in England that could be found more unsavoury and loathsome." If anything in his life demonstrated Raleigh's leadership skills it was this; all the men made it back to the coast alive.

They travelled some 250 miles up the Orinoco to where it meets another great river, the Caroní – the site of Guayana City today. It was impossible to go any further. The river there was as broad as the Thames at Woolwich and in full spate; they couldn't row further than a stone's throw in an hour, he said. Besides, ahead lay the tumbling falls of the Salto la Llovizna which they had no means of navigating.

Here, at a native settlement named Morequito, Raleigh met an elderly tribal chief, or *cacique*, Topiawari. They seem to have become friends: later travellers reported his disappointment that Raleigh did not return. Raleigh for his part described Topiawari as the "proudest and wisest" of his people, a man of "gravity and judgement [and] good discourse". Raleigh understood Topiawari to say that the border of El Dorado was four days away, but that he, Raleigh, needed to return with more men and arms. It was as close as Raleigh ever came to realising his dream.

It was the middle of June. Such was the force of the river that a journey that had taken them a month upriver took them a mere four days on the return. On the way back, they met another cacique named Putijma who told them he knew of a great gold-bearing hill that could be mined. But to all intents and purposes they returned empty handed, with nothing more than the promise of wealth to come.

The prison years

Raleigh remained convinced there were riches to be had in the region, his faith now fired in the crucible of experience. A mere four months after his return to London he sent one of his most loyal men, Lawrence Keymis, to scout out the gold mine of which Putijma had spoken, but the Spanish had already established a fort-town named San Thomé at Morequito. Within a year, Raleigh sent another



See Anna Sauer at the Oxford Literary Festival on 7 April at 4pm. Use discount code History19 to save on tickets.

Gold items like this from Colombia only fuelled more belief in El Dorado

The Quest For Riches



Raleigh's servitude towards the queen did him little good



ship to explore the region south of the Orinoco, following intelligence from Keymis that they had been searching too far north for Manoa.

The last years of Elizabeth's reign were not good ones for Raleigh, and their sequel was worse. In the autumn of 1603 Raleigh was convicted of plotting the overthrow of James I, who had come to the throne earlier that year. His sentence was suspended, but he would spend the next 12 years imprisoned in the Tower of London. Perhaps that sharpened the obsession, but Raleigh wasn't alone in sharing it. In March 1609, the young heir to the throne, Prince Henry, sponsored an expedition to the region under Robert Harcourt. At the end of the same year, Sir Thomas Roe led another expedition. Raleigh was one of its sponsors, alongside Roe himself and the Earl of Southampton. It would be some 18 months before Roe returned. He had concluded that Manoa – the golden city of El Dorado – did not exist.

"Daniel Defoe called the expedition 'the greatest enterprise undertaken by any private person in the world'"

This seems not to have deterred Raleigh in the slightest. His confidence in the existence of abundant gold in the region remained undiminished. In 1616, James released him from the Tower and authorised him to return to Guiana in search of a potential gold mine that he had seen in the sandy rock close to what was now San Thomé. Raleigh had instructions not to engage the Spanish militarily; James' policy towards Spain was one of peace and rapprochement.

New gold dream

Raleigh sailed from Plymouth on 12 June 1617 with 14 ships under his command. With him were the redoubtable Laurence Keymis and Raleigh's 22-year-old son, Wat. Illness on the voyage across accounted for the lives of 42 men, including Raleigh's second in command, John Pigott. Raleigh himself collapsed on the deck, hitting his head. He couldn't eat solid food for 20 days or more; he survived, he said, on the occasional stewed prune.

By 14 November, when the fleet arrived off the coast of South America, it was apparent Raleigh was too ill to lead the expedition upriver. Keymis would take charge in his stead. Under him were five captains – the fleet only had five ships with

draughts shallow enough to penetrate the Orinoco delta – and five company commanders, among them Wat. There were some 400 men in total: 150 seamen, 250 soldiers – "a scum of men," Raleigh described them to Keymis.

They started up the Orinoco on 10 December. Only three ships survived the powerful currents and shoals of the delta, and they reached San Thomé on 2 January 1618, towards the end of the morning. Raleigh's preparations for the expedition had been thorough; they had also been quite public. The Spanish garrison was small – it comprised just 57 men, including a number of invalids – but it was as prepared as it could be.

Keymis' men were surprised by an ambush as the sun fell. Later – after midnight it was said, and certainly after much debate – they stormed the town. Wat Raleigh, captaining the pikemen, led the charge. "Come on my hearts!" he shouted. He was felled by a musket ball in the throat. Four other Englishmen died in the taking of the town.

Back at the coast, Raleigh knew nothing of this for a month. Then, on 31 January he heard from a native source that two of the five captains had died in the fighting. Two weeks later he received a letter from Keymis. "I never knew what sorrow meant till now," Raleigh later wrote to his wife with the news.

Suicide mission

Up in San Thomé, Keymis – who must have known that by attacking the Spanish town he had breached the principal condition of Raleigh's deal with James I – was falling apart too. Only a few Spanish had died in the skirmish. Most had fled, and Keymis was fearful they would return upriver with reinforcements. Moreover, of course, he had no precise idea where the mine might be. Did he even believe there was one?

Keymis dithered and stalled, losing all respect from those who served him. "At last we found his delays mere illusions and himself a mere Machiavel," one of his captains said. "For he was false to all men and odious to himself." Eventually three small craft were sent upriver. Some reports said they went as far as 300 miles into the interior. They took enough food for four days but were gone three weeks, finding no information about the location of either a new mine or an existing one.

They returned to San Thomé and found it subject to increasingly successful guerrilla raids. After 29 days of occupation the English left the town, and the Spanish burned it to the ground.

The remnants of Keymis' party met with Raleigh on the coast on 2 March. Keymis begged Raleigh's forgiveness. "Seeing my son was lost, I cared not," Raleigh told him. "[He] had undone me by his obstinacy, and I would not favour or colour in any sort his former folly." Keymis returned to his cabin and drove a knife through his own heart. Raleigh was executed in November the same year. James I used the breach of his promise to keep peace with the Spanish as an excuse to revive the treason

Walter Raleigh's Hunt For El Dorado

charge. Raleigh died for many reasons; the failure of his search for gold was only the last of them.

What then, are we to make of that search, which cost Raleigh so much? There seems little doubt that his initial faith in the existence of El Dorado was real enough. But what about after he decided to turn back in June 1585? That is the point, after all, when talk of a mine first appeared as they raced downriver. Was he deluding himself as well as those around him? Was his inability to reach El Dorado simply too great to countenance?

We don't know. Daniel Defoe called the expedition "the greatest enterprise undertaken by any private person in the world". He was wrong, surely, but there is something elusively compelling about it. We are still, in a sense, in the grip of Raleigh's imagination even now, absorbed in the epic scale of his failure after 400 years, asking ourselves the same questions his contemporaries asked, about the intensity of Raleigh's fever, the integrity of his dream.



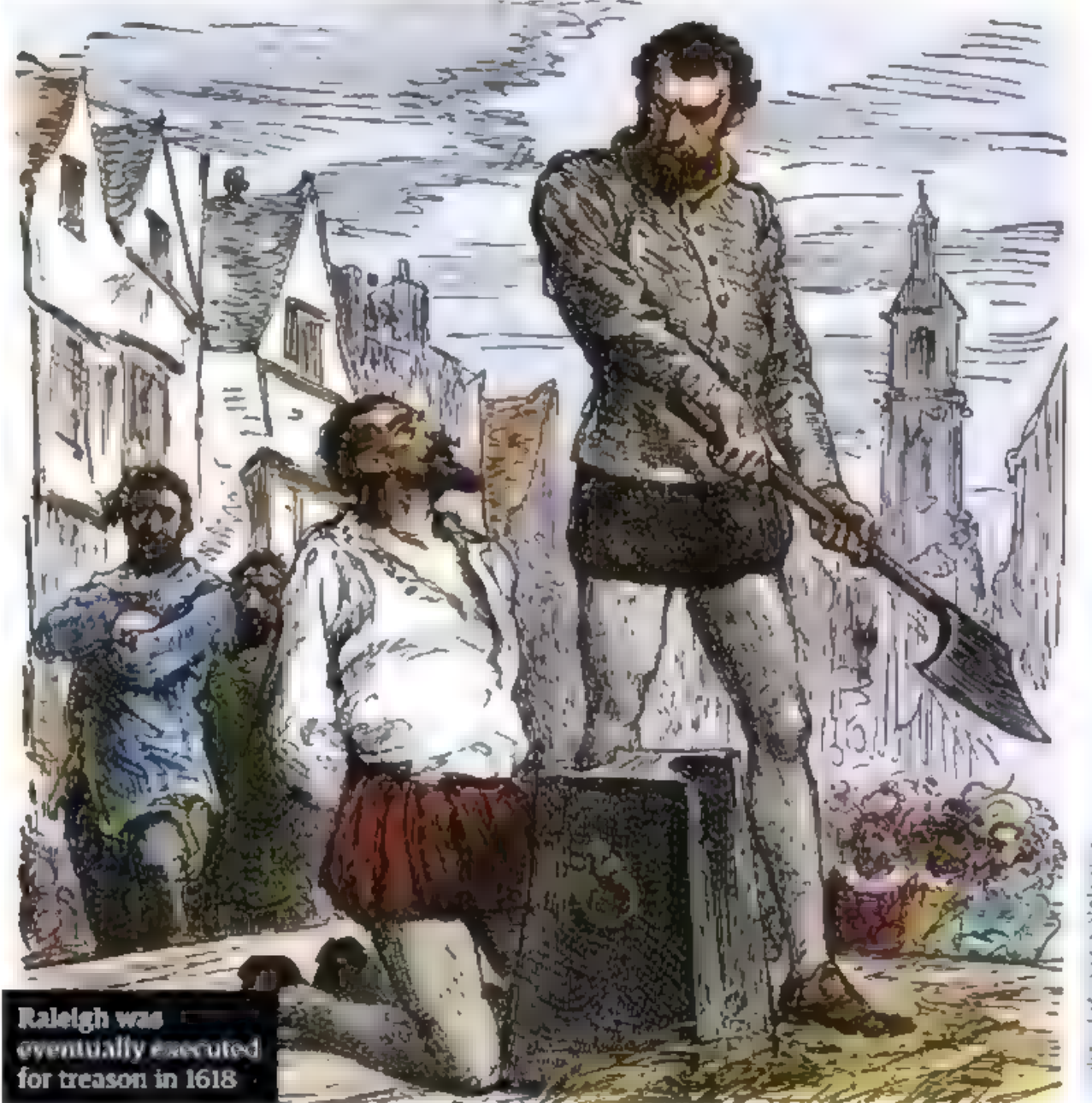
Raleigh was a good organiser of men although they suffered much hardship



Raleigh and company became quite friendly with some of the natives



How the native Americans of Guiana cast gold: a 1599 Theodore de Bry engraving for Raleigh's Discoverie of Guiana



Raleigh was eventually executed for treason in 1618



PUYI

Last Emperor Of China

From child on a throne to communist prisoner, the story of the last Qing Dynasty emperor charts the massive changes in early 20th century China

Written by Dan Barish

Perhaps no one in world history has a first line of their biography quite like Puyi: he was emperor three different times. But Puyi was also a prisoner many times over, trapped both within grand imperial palaces and cramped prison cells. For 61 years, from his birth in 1906 until his death in 1967, Puyi was at the centre of multiple revolutions, coups and explosive world events. His story has been told in many ways - from his own autobiography to the big screen in Bernardo Bertolucci's 1987 film *The Last Emperor*. Yet much about Puyi remains unknown, the truth obscured by the intermingling of fact and propaganda in narratives of his life. In tracing his life story - from a childhood as the last emperor of the once glorious Qing Dynasty in China, through his time as a puppet ruler for the Japanese Empire in

Manchukuo, until his life under Communist rule, we reveal not just the fascinating details of one life, but the currents of global history from the age of empire through a century of revolution.

All Pomp, No Power

Much of what would become of Puyi's life was set in motion long before he was born. The empire he would come to rule - the Qing Dynasty - was one of the world's greatest during the 17th and 18th centuries. Puyi's ancestors emerged from Manchuria, conquered the collapsing Ming Dynasty, and expanded the territory of China to an extent never seen before. Yet by the time Puyi was born that once grand empire was in a desperate state of decline. Over the course of the 19th century, domestic rebellions depleted the empire's armies; corruption emptied the imperial treasury;



Puyi was briefly placed back on the throne in 1917 by warlord Zhang Xun, now aged 11 years old, but the restoration quickly failed



Puyi had three brothers and seven sisters from his father's two wives



Wanrong, pictured here with Puyi, was known to have had affairs during their marriage

Fate of the Empress

The timeline of the tragic life of Wanrong

13 NOV 1906

Wanrong is born to an aristocratic family of the Gobulo clan. Her father, Rongyuan, served as minister for domestic affairs in the imperial court. Her mother, Aisin-Gioro Hengxin, died during childbirth.

1906-1922

Rongyuan believes in gender equality and makes sure his daughter receives an education equal to that of her two brothers. She goes to an American missionary school in Tianjin and learns English.

30 NOV 1922

Despite having abdicated the throne, Puyi is still afforded some privileges as former emperor, one of which was marrying in a ceremony in the Forbidden City. He chooses Wanrong from a selection of photos his elders had selected for him (she was his second choice, but closest in age to him). They marry before dawn, as was the imperial custom. It is not believed that the marriage was consummated, however.

5 NOV 1924

The Beijing Coup led by Feng Yuxiang forces Puyi and Wanrong to vacate the Forbidden City and relocate to the Quiet Garden Villa in Tianjin. Here she unfortunately becomes addicted to opium.

JULY 1931

The Yangtze-Huai River floods becomes one of the most lethal natural disasters of the 20th century, killing between 400,000 and 4 million people. Wanrong donates much to the relief effort.



Puyi had five wives in total, two at one time as emperor, but Wanrong was with him for the longest time even though it's suspected their marriage was never consummated

and imperialist powers carved up the map. Now at the start of the 20th century, revolution was in the air.

In these tumultuous decades before Puyi was born, the Qing was controlled by a powerful woman, the Empress Dowager Cixi. During the reign of her son, the Tongzhi Emperor, and then her nephew, the Guangxu Emperor, Cixi deftly manoeuvred the politics of Beijing to ensure that regardless of who sat on the throne, true power remained in her hands. Late in 1908, Cixi made one final play: selecting the three-year-old Puyi - the son of her closest allies - to succeed the childless Guangxu as heir-apparent of the Qing.

And so, on 13 November 1908, the young Puyi was taken from his father's home in Beijing and transferred to the Forbidden City. It was a frenzied scene. As the confused two-year-old sat crying, a gaggle of servants scurried around the house making all the necessary preparations for the boy's new life as heir-apparent. But Puyi's time as heir to the throne was short-lived. His predecessor died the very next day. And only one day later, Cixi herself passed away. The timing of the deaths hardly went unnoticed, and many speculated that Cixi had hastened her nephew's demise for fear he would outlive her and undo her decisions.

Regardless of the circumstances of their deaths, with both Guangxu and Cixi gone, the fate of the empire was now placed in Puyi's hands. He was officially enthroned as emperor on 2 December 1908 in an elaborate ceremony whose pomp was only marginally disturbed by the young emperor's cries. For three years, Puyi lived inside the palace walls as emperor of the Qing Dynasty. Surrounded by thousands of servants and officials, Puyi's

days were filled with ordinary tasks of childhood: learning to read and causing mischief.

Outside of the Forbidden City, however, revolutionaries sought to do more than cause simple mischief.

They sought to topple the regime and end 2,000 years of imperial rule. The years following Puyi's ascension to the throne were filled with assassinations, bombings, mutinies, and finally, at the end of 1911, a revolutionary uprising.

On 12 February 1912, before he could read or write, the regents of the Qing Court attached Puyi's name to an abdication edict that ended the reign of the Qing Dynasty and ushered in a new age of republican governance in China.

The Prison of the Forbidden City

The terms of the Qing's abdication, however, were striking: to avoid a protracted war, the revolutionaries agreed to let Puyi and the Qing Court remain in the Forbidden City, promised to protect their private property as well as provide a generous stipend to support the imperial family. The 'Articles of Favorable Treatment', as they were known, thus meant that the Qing Emperor was not only spared death, but allowed to live a life of considerable luxury.

Still just a small child, Puyi was largely unaware of the dramatic change in his status. His life continued to be filled by pomp and ritual: dressed in special clothing, addressed as His Majesty, surrounded by servants, and provided with feasts of near ridiculous proportions for every meal. As Puyi himself later said, he lived the "most absurd childhood possible." All the while, many around Puyi in the Forbidden City held out hopes that he and the Qing would one day be restored to power.

That day appeared to come in the summer of 1917. Since the overthrow of the Qing, a series of warlords had battled for control around the country. One of them, a man named Zhang Xun - known as the "pigtail warlord" for his loyalty to the Qing exemplified by his refusal to cut his traditional hairstyle - led his army into Beijing and restored Puyi to the throne. People around the city flew Qing flags, donned traditional clothes and celebrated the return of the emperor. But just two weeks later, the Qing paraphernalia was returned to storage, as Zhang and his troops were chased out of Beijing by a rival warlord. Puyi was forced to abdicate, now for the second time.

In the years following his second-enthronement, the now early-teen Puyi grew restless inside the Forbidden City, describing it as a prison and even plotting elaborate escape attempts. He frequently expressed a desire to study abroad, and in 1919 in order to satiate the young boy's interest in the outside world, the government brought in an English tutor. Reginald Johnston was hired to

NOV 1931

Puyi travels to Manchuria to help establish the state of Manchukuo of which he will later become emperor as a puppet of Japan. Wanrong becomes closely monitored by Japanese officials.

1 MARCH 1934

Puyi is made emperor of Manchukuo and by extension Wanrong is made empress. She only makes one public appearance after her coronation, becoming increasingly isolated from her husband.

1935

Wanrong is known to have had affairs with two of Puyi's aides and in 1935 gives birth to a daughter from one of these partners; the baby dies (possibly murdered). Her mental state worsens further.

15 AUG 1945

With the Japanese surrendering, Puyi abdicates and plans his escape without his wife who he leaves in the care of his brother's wife, Saga Hiro. The women attempt to escape to Korea.

JAN 1946

Wanrong and Saga are captured by communist guerrillas and sent to prison. Going through opium withdrawal, Wanrong is also now suffering from hallucinations and is cared for only by Saga.

20 JUNE 1946

Wanrong dies from starvation in her cell a short time after Saga is moved elsewhere, leaving her alone with no one to care for her. It is not known where she is buried.



instruct Puyi in English, history, geography and a variety of other subjects. Johnston encouraged Puyi to embrace some elements of Western culture, even convincing him to abandon the traditional hairstyle and wear glasses. But at the same time, Johnston believed deeply in traditional Confucian values and longed for an imperial restoration under Puyi's leadership.

By the early 1920s, it seems that Puyi himself had become interested in power. According to him, "In my early teens I began to understand that my textbooks had something to do with me and grew interested in how to be a 'good emperor', in why an emperor was an emperor, and in what heavenly significance there was in this." Puyi's tutors encouraged this line of thinking, telling him stories of former emperors and officials, who, temporarily deposed from power, patiently waited to be called back into service. As the cavalcade of short-lived presidents, warlords and other would-be leaders fought for control of Beijing, Puyi lived quietly in the centre of the city, biding his time, awaiting the next chance for restoration.

There were of course many who found the situation - a twice dethroned emperor living in the centre of a republic - bizarre, and perhaps even dangerous. In 1919, two years before he would help to found the Communist Party, the young Mao Zedong wrote that, "no one who has been emperor does not want to be emperor again." Mao argued that the safest thing to do was to kill Puyi and remove the threat of another restoration attempt.

In Search of a Throne

Puyi's life inside the Forbidden City - though not his life - came to an end on 5 November 1924. On that day the troops of yet another warlord, Feng Yuxiang, cut the phone lines, disarmed the palace guards and unceremoniously kicked the former-emperor and his entourage out of the palace. Outside of the imposing walls of the Forbidden City, Puyi was told that he was now an ordinary citizen of the Republic - meaning that while he had no special privileges, he also had the same rights as anyone else, including, he was assured, the right to one day run for President. For the moment, Puyi seemed to have little interest in politics, and certainly not in running for office. For several years after, Puyi lived the life of a socialite in Tianjin, attending banquets, throwing parties, and hosting dignitaries. Slowly but surely, however, Puyi grew restless, and dreams of restoration crept into his mind.

Then, in 1928, Puyi was struck with news that cemented his desire not only for power, but also for revenge. In July of 1928 soldiers affiliated with Chiang Kai-Shek's Nationalist Army set explosives at the mausoleums of Puyi's ancestors, desecrating their bodies and looting their tombs, reportedly filling 20 trucks with 100 million dollars' worth of imperial treasures. Puyi was enraged. As he said, "Nobody burning with ambition and longing for revenge as I was could have left everything to the will of heaven and not tried to do something

Puyi: Last Emperor Of China



Working as a gardener in the botanical gardens of Beijing was just one of the jobs Puyi had in communist China through the 1960s



It seems likely that Puyi took on the role as executive of the new Manchurian state in the hopes of returning to something like his former glory, but the people weren't enthused by the imposition of such a government



Puyi greets a British officer visiting Manchuria when he was a executive and later emperor of the region

himself." Puyi now wholeheartedly sought out support and patronage for his restorationist dreams.

Here the interests of Puyi and Japan intersected, albeit uncomfortably and unevenly. Japan had long held territorial aspirations in China, and their presence in the northeast region of Manchuria (Puyi's ancestral homeland) steadily increased following the Russo-Japanese War in 1905. In 1931, Japan staged an attack at a railway, using the supposed threat to justify a full-scale invasion. In place of the warlords who had ruled the region for the past two decades, Japan now sought to construct a wholly new state, one that while ostensibly representing the people of Manchuria, would in fact be a colony ruled by Japan. Japan wanted a figurehead for the new state, and Puyi wanted a springboard back to the Qing throne.

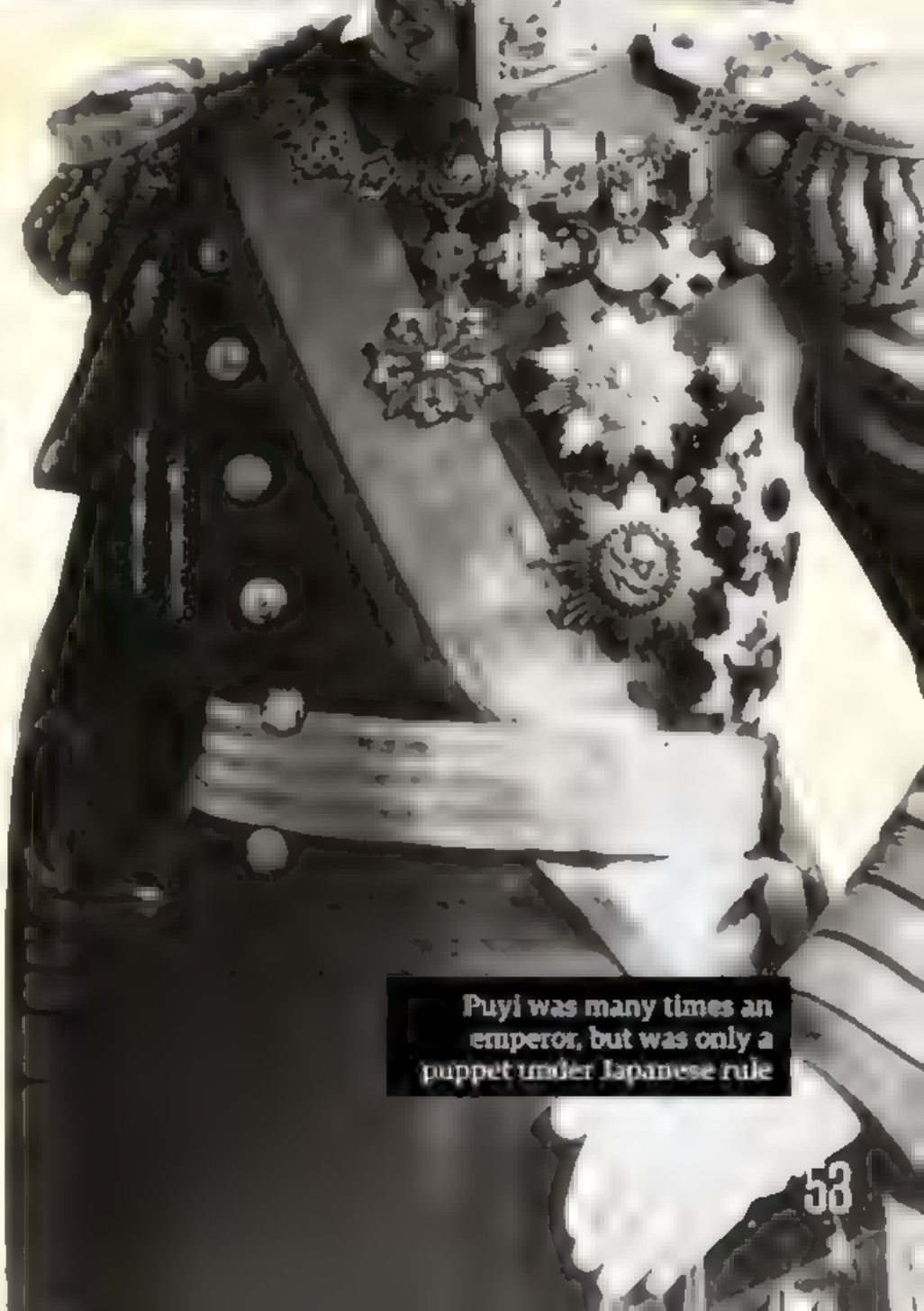
So, in November of 1931, Puyi snuck out of Tianjin - first in the trunk of a car and then aboard a boat - to travel to the north-east to take

"In 1928, Puyi was struck with news that cemented his desire for revenge"

up the mantle of the new state of Manchukuo. At first, Puyi was greatly disappointed: the Japanese did not name him emperor, but rather "chief executive" when Manchukuo was formed.

In an attempt to win international recognition for the new state, Japan put on an elaborate show, declaring Manchukuo a republic that represented the wishes of the local population. But the charade was transparent: a League of Nations commission denounced the regime, declaring it illegitimate.

With no possibility of international recognition for their new Manchukuo 'Republic', Japan conceded to Puyi's demand and allowed him to become, for the third time, emperor. However, Puyi's enthronement as emperor in Manchukuo on 1 March 1934 did not grant him any more actual power than he had as chief executive during the first few years of the state. He was still just a figurehead and puppet. Nor was it a restoration of the Qing. Although he won a small personal



Puyi was many times an emperor, but was only a puppet under Japanese rule

Puyi's autobiography, *From Emperor To Citizen*, was written with the endorsement of the communist government and with a ghost writer from the People's Publishing Bureau



Puyi's health suffered in his later years, and he eventually died of cancer aged 61

victory by surreptitiously donning Qing robes during rituals before the enthronement ceremony, Puyi emerged not as the restored Xuantong Emperor (his reign name from the Qing Empire), but as the newly anointed Kangde Emperor, dressed in a military uniform and forced to accept a subordinate position to the emperor of Japan.

Over the course of the next decade as Emperor of Manchukuo, Puyi was trotted out for tours around the territory, visiting factories and farms to show off the productivity of the state. And on two occasions he visited Japan, taking part in elaborate tours with Japan's Emperor Hirohito, always made to play the supporting role. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, Puyi made his first ever radio address, pledging support of Japan's war efforts. All the while, Puyi harboured dreams of returning to Beijing and once again sitting on the throne, not as puppet-leader of Manchukuo, but as the head of the great Qing Empire.

Imprisonment and Rebirth

On 9 August 1945, Russia declared war on Japan, and Puyi knew his time in Manchukuo was short. From that night on, he said, "I slept in my clothes" and "kept a pistol in my pocket." Puyi also ferreted away hundreds of jewels, hiding them in false bottoms in his suitcases, hopeful that the treasures would buy him safe passage. But as he was preparing to flee, Puyi was captured by Russian troops and taken to prison in Siberia.

In 1946, he was released briefly to testify at the International Military Tribunal for the Far East,

otherwise known as the Tokyo War Crimes Trial. Over the course of a week, Puyi refused to say little more than that he had been a puppet of the Japanese, always fearing for his life if he did not comply with their plans. He frequently claimed he could not remember even the most basic details about his life, and both in the halting manner of his speech and the often times incoherent content of his testimony, it appeared impossible to imagine Puyi as the leader of an empire of any sort. After

"He frequently claimed he could not remember even the most basic details of his life"

testifying in Tokyo, Puyi was returned to Russia where he lived in a Siberian prison for the next five years.

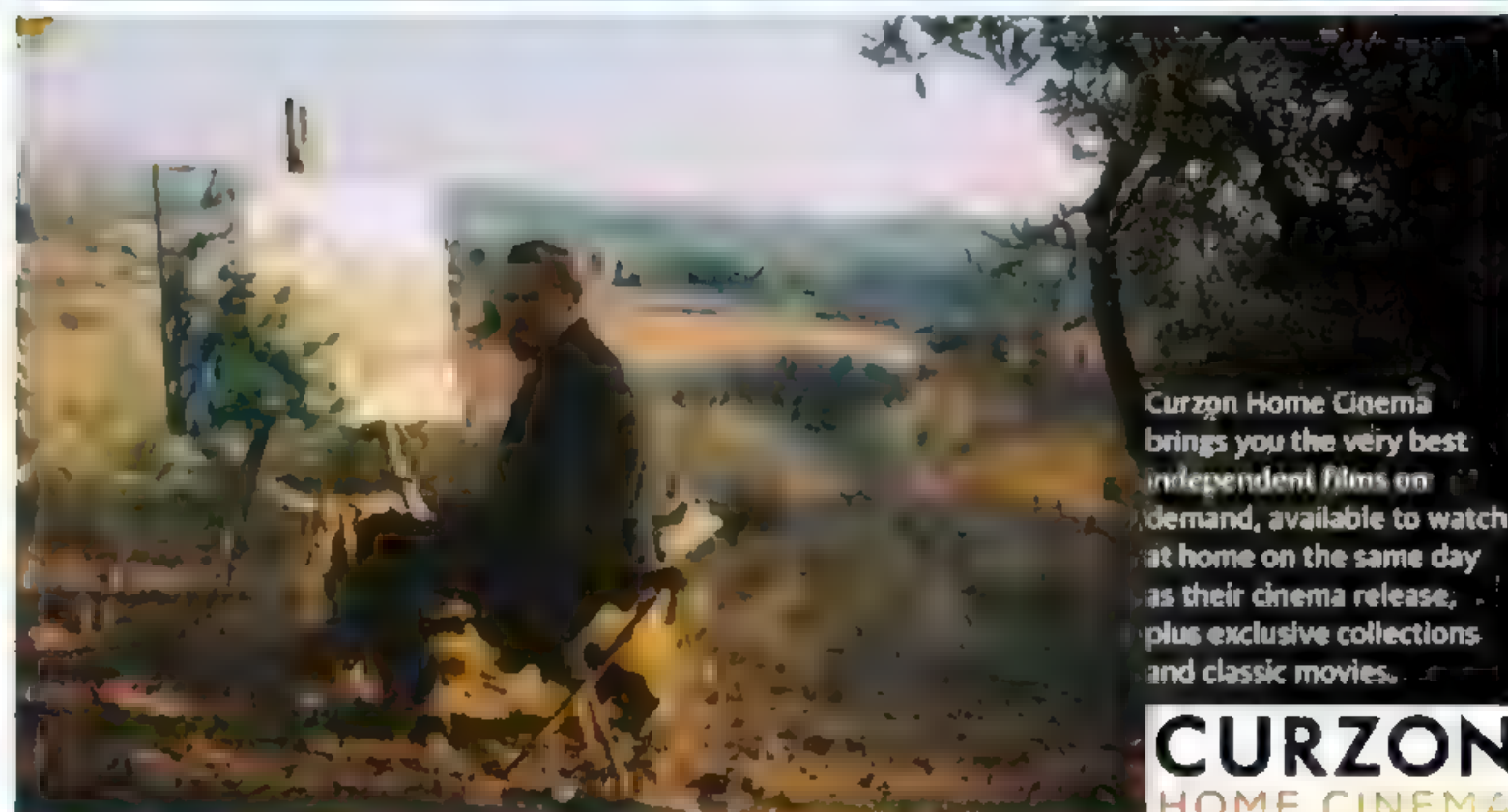
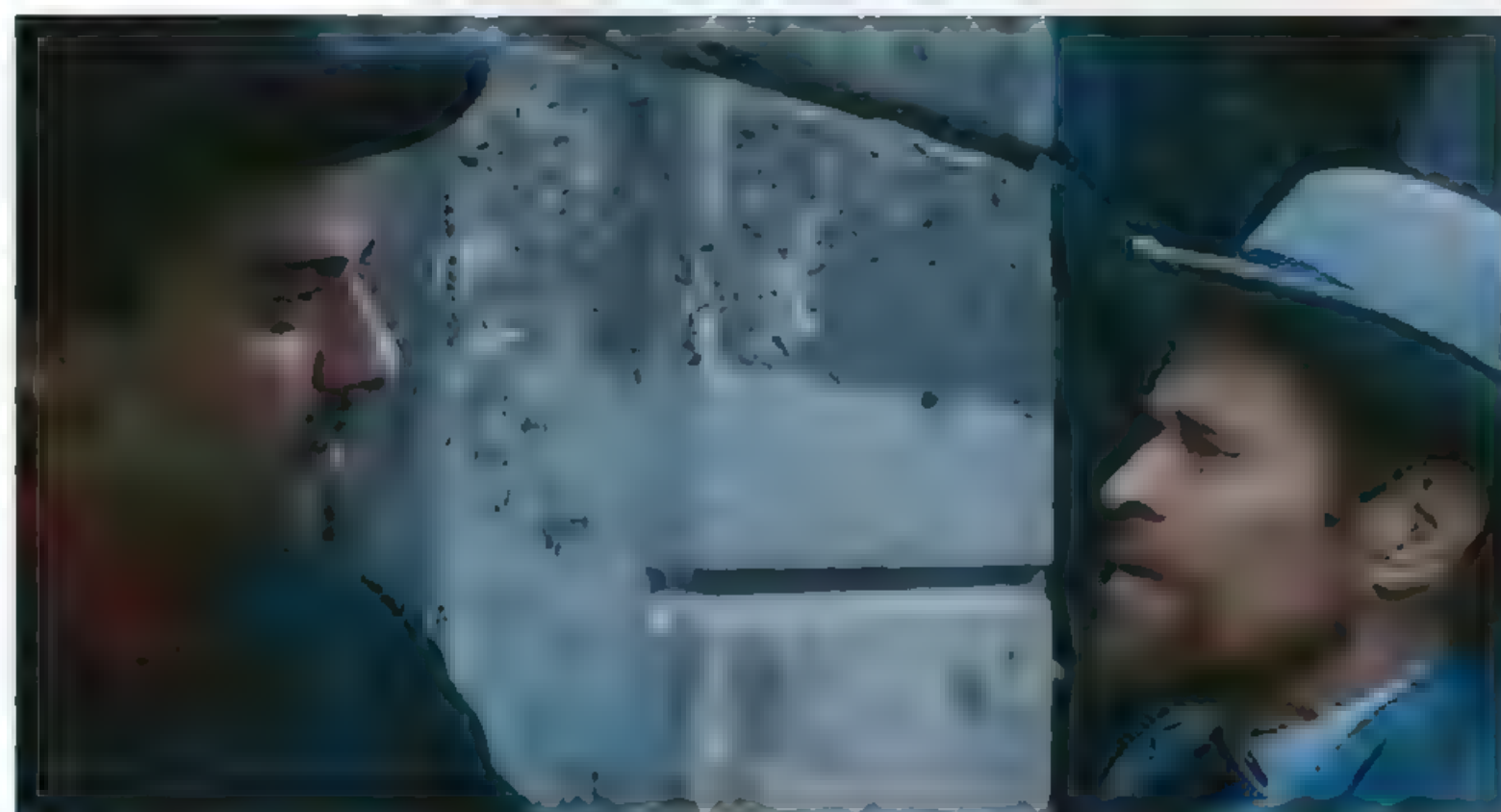
When Mao and the Communists emerged victorious in China's civil war and established the People's Republic, the Russians handed over Puyi to their new allies. Now living in a North China prison, Puyi underwent arduous

political reeducation. Stripped of his servants, his privileges, and any dreams of power, Puyi was forced to confess to his crimes, not only of collaborating with the Japanese, but also of his long life of decadence. Finally, on 4 December 1959, Puyi's reeducation was deemed complete and he was released from jail. He returned to Beijing to live a quiet, yet purposeful, life. Puyi was presented to both the domestic and international press as a star pupil of communist teachings. Upon his release, he told the world that, "Puyi, who was once emperor, is now dead." Reflecting on his many past lives as emperor, Puyi now said he had been granted one final throne: "When I was released from custody and became a free citizen, I became an emperor for the fourth time - one of 650 million emperors and empresses who together rule China under the glorious leadership of the Communist Party and its Chairman, Mao Zedong."

Thus, although Mao had written in 1919 that Puyi - already at that point an ex-emperor two times over - should be killed, Puyi in fact proved useful to Mao and the Communist propaganda. In many ways, Puyi spent his life fighting the currents of history. Born to rule a once glorious dynasty in an age when empires were disappearing from the map, he grew up searching for a patron for his dreams of restoration and in the process was used many times over as a puppet for others' power. Puyi died quietly of cancer in Beijing in 1967, and in his death, fully cleared the stage for the next era of leadership in China: the cult of Mao - the man whom Puyi credited with enabling his fourth and final time as emperor.

The Final Years of Vincent van Gogh in At ETERNITY'S GATE

Earning him a Best Actor Oscar nomination, *Willem Dafoe* is mesmerising as legendary painter *Vincent van Gogh* in the film *At Eternity's Gate*. Covering the artist's final years, we find a complex, troubled soul struggling to make sense of himself and his connection to those around him, including friend and fellow artist Paul Gauguin (*Oscar Isaac*) and a confiding priest (*Mads Mikkelsen*).



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1888

FEB

Vincent escapes Paris heading south to Arles in search of a new light.

JUN

Vincent visits Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer which inspires such paintings as *Fishing Boats On The Beach*. Here the surrounding harvest influenced the likes of *Stacks Of Wheat Near A Farmhouse* and *The Sower*. With such an abundance of inspiration and creativity, Vincent could also complete such portraits as *Joseph Roulin*.

SEP

With Gauguin due to stay in Arles, Vincent moves into the famous Yellow House. It is here he completes such works as *The Night Cafe*.

OCT

Struggling with fatigue, Van Gogh completes *The Tarascon Diligence*, *The Trinquetaille Bridge* and *The Bedroom*. Gauguin makes his belated arrival to Arles raising Vincent's spirits.

DEC

Van Gogh and Gauguin's friendship breaks down, climaxing with Vincent removing his ear and Gauguin departing for Paris.

1889

JAN

Now out of the hospital Vincent begins on *Self-portrait*.

APR

After a troubled spell, Vincent admits himself to an asylum in nearby Saint-Remy where he paints *Olive Trees*, *Cypresses* and *The Starry Night*. With varying degrees of health, the asylum would be his home for the next year but he continues to work.

1890

APR

Vincent leaves Saint-Remy for Auvers to stay with Dr Paul Gachet, visiting his brother Theo in Paris along the way.

MAY

In Auvers under the care of the doctor and art enthusiast, who becomes a close friend, Vincent works on *The Portrait Of Dr Gachet*.

JUL

Returning from a brief stay at his brother's in Paris, Vincent, in a state of great melancholy, works on his final paintings such as *Wheatfield With Crows*. On the 29th of July, Vincent dies of a gunshot wound at Theo's side.

SEE AT ETERNITY'S GATE IN CINEMAS & ON DEMAND FROM 29 MARCH



HOROLOGICAL
INSTRUMENTS

PHILOSOPHICAL
INSTRUMENTS

KEY

-  Gold medal
-  Silver medal
-  Bronze medal

WONDERS OF THE GREAT EXHIBITION

The first of a series of international exhibitions designed to showcase innovations from around the world, the Great Exhibition was an event unlike any other seen before

Written by Jessica Leggett



The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations was the brain-child of Queen Victoria's consort, Prince Albert, and inventor Henry Cole. The purpose of the exhibition was to display the greatest international achievements in culture and industry, although it was also an opportunity for Britain to show off its own superiority to the world.

Held in the Crystal Palace, a building constructed especially for the Exhibition, around 100,000 objects from 14,000 exhibitors went on display from May to October 1851. Lots of different countries agreed to take part, including America, France, Russia, Australia and New Zealand.

Despite fears from critics that the Exhibition would be a failure, an estimated six million people travelled to London to witness the latest marvels.

The Exhibition broke down social barriers as visitors from all different classes came to see the displays - by the end of May, an entrance ticket could be bought for just a shilling per person. Many Victorian A-listers paid a visit, including renowned authors Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot, Charles Dickens and Lewis Carroll, and a massive £186,000 was raised in profits, which continues to fund scientific research to this day.

THE FACSIMILE MACHINE

The Victorian Fax Machine

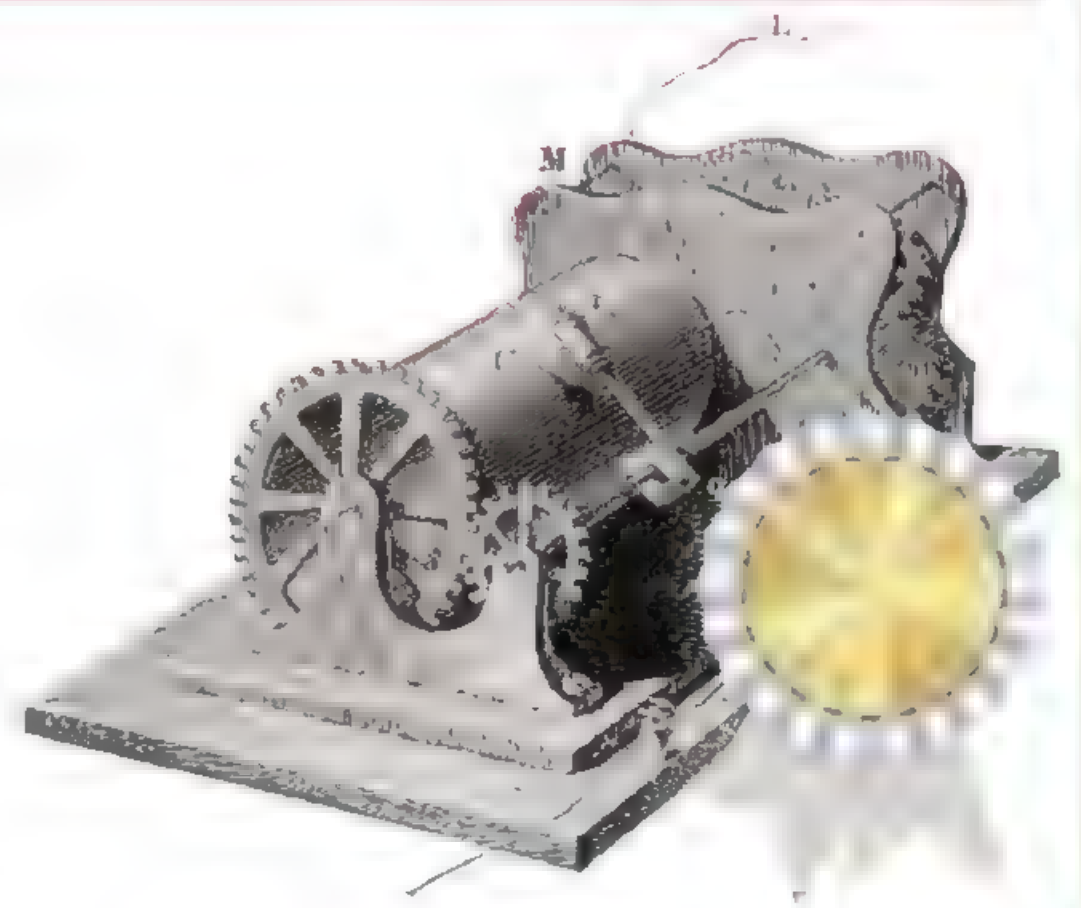
Made by: Frederick Bakewell Date: 1848

Physicist Frederick Bakewell presented his prototype facsimile machine, an "image telegraph", at the Great Exhibition. A predecessor to the fax machine, the image was written with insulating ink on tinfoil and placed around a rotating transmitter cylinder. The image would then be traced by a pendulum-driven stylus, with another second stylus marking a chemically treated paper using an electrical current as the receiver cylinder rotated.

Bakewell's prototype was an improved version of the facsimile machine developed by Scottish inventor and clockmaker Alexander Bain. Using his knowledge as a clockmaker, Bain built his own experimental

facsimile machine in 1843, which was supposed to scan a two-dimensional surface using a stylus on a pendulum. However, Bain never demonstrated his device and by the time he applied for a patent seven years later, it had already been awarded to Bakewell.

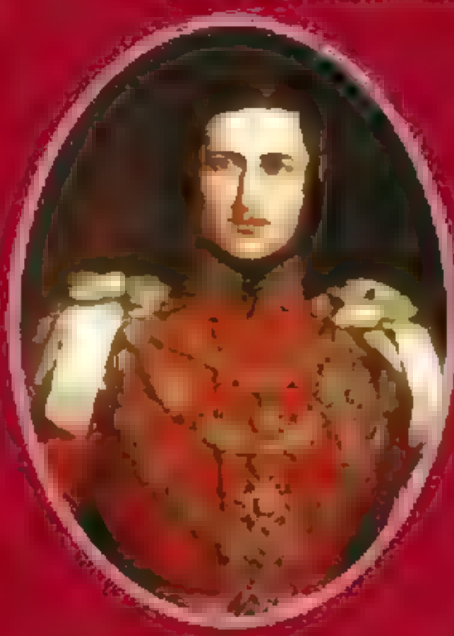
Therefore, Bakewell was the first person to demonstrate facsimile transmission when he appeared at the Great Exhibition. Nevertheless, there were problems with both Bakewell's and Bain's facsimile machines, and it wasn't until 1863 when the first commercial operating facsimile machine to transmit images came into use, when physicist Giovanni Caselli introduced the Pantelegraph machine in France.



*"The beginnings of
a groundbreaking
invention"*

KEY FIGURES

Meet the four people behind one of the most iconic moments of the Victoria Era



PRINCE ALBERT

Prince Albert was fascinated with advancements in the arts, science, trade and industry. He was the President of the Royal Commission for the Exhibition and ensured the profits made from the event were used to "increase the means of industrial education and extend the influence of science and art upon productive industry" with the founding of various museums including the V&A and the Natural History Museum.



HENRY COLE

In 1849, British inventor Henry Cole, inspired by national displays that he had seen in Paris, proposed to hold a similar exhibition in London but on an international scale. He hoped it would not only educate the public but inspire the booming manufacturing industry in Britain. The idea quickly garnered the support of Prince Albert and they organised it along with other members of the Royal Society of Arts.



JOSEPH PAXTON

Architect Joseph Paxton was the man behind the Crystal Palace. Over 200 designs for the building had been rejected but Paxton's idea, to use large sheets of strong glass, was both cheap and easy to erect and take down. It took eight months to build the Crystal Palace with a workforce of 2,000 men and after the Exhibition concluded, the whole building was relocated to Sydenham Hill, where it burned down in 1936.



THOMAS COOK

Businessman Thomas Cook played a key role in the success of the Great Exhibition. As the founder of travel agency Thomas Cook & Son, he organised excursions for around 150,000 people from Yorkshire and the Midlands to visit the Exhibition in Hyde Park, London, during the six months it was on. This included 3,000 children from all over Leicester, Derby and Nottingham, who travelled to the capital thanks to his arrangements.

THE TEMPEST PROGNOSTICATOR

Who knew leeches could predict the weather?

Made by: Dr George Merryweather Date: 1850

Dr George Merryweather's Tempest Prognosticator was arguably one of the weirdest inventions to appear at the Great Exhibition. Knowing that medical leeches were sensitive to changes in atmospheric pressure, Merryweather believed that they could be used to predict an approaching storm and set out to create a device to prove his theory.

He created six designs for 'An Atmospheric Electromagnetic Telegraph, conducted by Animal Instinct', the original name for his prognosticator, to suit various price points. The device consisted of 12 glass bottles in a circle, with a leech in each one, and above

there was a bell surrounded by 12 hammers. In each bottle neck there was a whalebone lever that attached to one of the hammers - the idea was that when a storm approached, the leeches would climb up the bottle necks and move the whalebones, causing the bell to ring.

Merryweather tested his machine for over a year before the Exhibition, and he hoped that his invention would be used widely around the world and along coastlines. Unfortunately, interest in his prognosticator did not catch on and he failed to sell a single one, although Merryweather's device will always be remembered for its eccentricity.

"A wacky invention that failed to cause a storm"



THE TARA BROOCH

Stunning Celtic Craftsmanship

Displayed by: G & S Waterhouse **Date:** c.650 - 750

One of the most breathtaking objects to be shown at the Great Exhibition was the Tara Brooch, which had been discovered Bettystown, Co Meath, in 1850 by a peasant woman. Made from cast and gilt silver, it is decorated with gold filigree panels depicting animal and abstract motifs, and set with pearls, amethysts, glass, enamel and amber.

The brooch was purchased by Dublin jeweller George Waterhouse, who showcased it at various international exhibitions, including the Exposition Universelle in Paris, 1855. To add more value to the piece and to increase its appeal, Waterhouse renamed it the 'Tara Brooch' after the Hill of Tara, the traditional seat of the High Kings of Ireland. Indeed, it proved popular with visitors as well as Queen Victoria, who liked Celtic

brooches and even bought a facsimile of the Tara Brooch at the Great Exhibition.

The Tara Brooch has often been credited with helping to fuel the demand for Celtic Revival jewellery, which had increased in demand since the 1840s. It was eventually purchased by the Royal Irish Academy in 1872 and later passed onto the National Museum of Ireland, where it can still be seen on display today.



"A real show-stealing display"

PRINCE ALBERT'S MODEL COTTAGE

Tackling Britain's Poverty

Made by: Henry Roberts **Date:** 1850 - 1851

The Society for Improving the Conditions of the Labouring Classes built a number of different model homes designed to provide better living conditions for the poor. With the prince's intervention the Society was able to erect a model home in the Knightsbridge Cavalry Barracks, near the Exhibition. Designed by Henry Roberts, a founding member of the Society and an architect, the homes were built using hollow bricks and wrought-iron rods, materials which

were cost-effective and ensured the houses would remain dry, insulated, fire-proof and hard-wearing. Roberts included bathrooms in his design, a room that did not usually feature in houses at the time.

The model homes proved to be a popular exhibit, with around 250,000 visitors coming to see them, including the queen herself. In fact, reaction to the homes was so positive that their designs were replicated, changing the designs of housing for the poor.

"An exhibit that successfully challenged social issues"

THE KOH-I-NOOR DIAMOND

The Hyped-up Exhibit

Displayed by: Queen Victoria **Date Acquired:** 1849

Out of all the exhibits at the Great Exhibition, the display of the Koh-i-Noor diamond was without a doubt one of the most hyped. Following the British Conquest of the Punjab in 1849, Maharaja Duleep Singh - who was just a ten-year-old boy - relinquished the Koh-i-Noor to Queen Victoria as part of the last Treaty of Lahore. Today, it forms part of the British Crown Jewels.

Queen Victoria agreed to display the Koh-i-Noor at the Exhibition and for security reasons, it was placed on a red cushion and kept in a glass safe surrounded by a gilded bird cage. Rumours of its size caused members of the press and the public to flock to the display, only to be left disappointed by its dull and simple appearance. In response to the negative reactions, the Koh-i-

Noor was moved to another case with gas lamps and small mirrors to allow it to sparkle more. Unfortunately, the poor reviews continued and once the exhibition closed, Prince Albert had the Koh-i-Noor recut and polished at a cost of £8,000. The size of the diamond was significantly reduced but the brilliant cut allowed it to refract light better, leading to a much-improved appearance.

"Disappointing display with a brighter future"





A FOLDING PIANOFORTE *For Music on the Go*

Made by: William Jenkins **Date:** c.mid-1800s

At the Great Exhibition, there were a number of different musical instruments on display and various types of piano, including the upright piano and the double piano. However, none were as weird or as wonderful as the folding piano. Created by British inventor and manufacturer William Jenkins, the piano was made from walnut, carved and decorated in an Elizabethan style. When collapsed, it was only 13.5 inches from front to back, making it far easier to carry and manoeuvre.

Jenkins registered his piano at the Exhibition with a very catchy title, as an 'Expanding and Collapsing Pianoforte for gentlemen's yachts, the saloons of steam-vessels, ladies' cabins, etc.' Clearly, Jenkins envisioned that his piano would be taken on the go but unfortunately, there is little information to indicate that his invention was successful.

Having said this, it is possible that Jenkins' work helped to influence others, as there was a rise in the making of so-called 'yacht pianos', with various companies, such as Chappell & Co, jumping on the bandwagon. While these collapsible pianos became popularly known as 'yacht pianos', it is more likely that they would have been bought for small rooms rather than for yachts.

"A fun idea that faded into the background"

THE 'DETECTOR' LOCK *The Great Lock Controversy of 1851*

Made by: Jeremiah Chubb **Date:** 1818

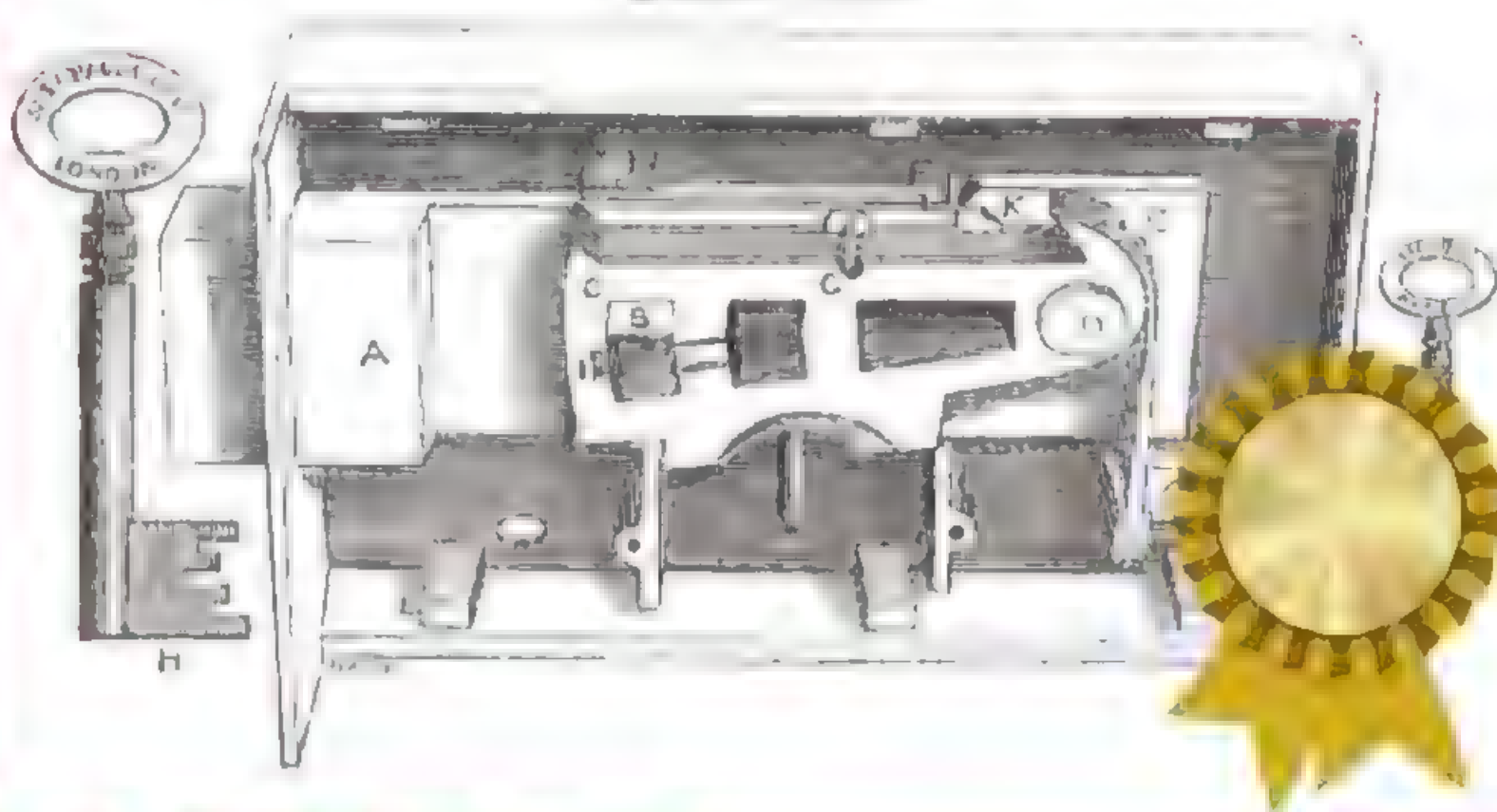
For over three decades the 'Detector' Lock, invented by ironmonger and locksmith Jeremiah Chubb, held the distinction as one of the strongest locks in the world, unpickable to even the most skilled of thieves. The six-lever lock would jam if unauthorised attempts were made to open it and could only be reset with either a regulating key or the correct key, when turned counterclockwise.

The famous 'Detector' lock was used widely across Britain by the time it was displayed at the Great Exhibition - in fact, its reputation was so great that Chubb was actually commissioned to create the safe that housed the Koh-i-Noor diamond exhibit. However, when American locksmith Alfred C Hobbs arrived to showcase his own Protector lock at the Exhibition, he vowed to be the first man to unpick the famous 'Detector' lock.

Unsurprisingly, Hobbs' declaration was met with some amusement as visitors gathered to witness the spectacle, with Chubb sending a man to watch the attempt. Using just a few small tools, Hobbs picked the lock in 25 minutes, and he even did it a second time, to prove it was no fluke. Leaving the audience astounded, Hobbs went on to use his new-found fame by going on a lock picking tour of England.

"A display that left the Victorians shocked"

CHUBB'S LOCK



THE MONKEY CLOSETS

The First Public Flushing Toilets

At the Great Exhibition, a plumber named George Jennings installed his 'Monkey Closets' in the Retiring Rooms of the Crystal Palace. For just a penny, visitors would get a clean seat, a towel, a comb and a shoe shine, which gave birth to the popular phrase 'to spend a penny'. Visitors were fascinated with the flushing

public toilets, with 575,000 pennies spent over the six months that the Exhibition was open.

Following the end of the Exhibition, the Crystal Palace was relocated to Sydenham Hill and the Monkey Closets were due to be closed. However, Jennings managed to convince the organisers to keep the

toilets and they went on to raise an extra £1,000 year. Following the success of Jennings' invention, public toilets slowly began to appear all over London and while not many Victorian public toilets survive, the remains of one of Jennings' Monkey Closets was discovered in Hyde Park back in 2016.



THE COLT 1851 NAVY REVOLVER

A Controversial Display

Made by: Samuel Colt Date: c.1847 - 50

American firearms manufacturer Samuel Colt arrived at the Great Exhibition to present the prototype for his new single action revolver, the Colt 1851 Navy Revolver. It drew lots of attention at the Exhibition, a win for the rather lacklustre American section, and encouraged Colt to open a factory in London, which produced around 42,000 Navy revolvers.

However, despite Colt's optimism, the Navy Revolver did not last long on the British market. With the end of the Crimean War, the factory was

eventually closed in 1856, although the revolver remained as a gun that many Victorians would grow to associate with the American West. Aside from the revolver, Colt also presented the Colt Walker, at the time the most powerful handgun to have been created, and the Colt Dragoon Revolver, at the Exhibition.

However, the decision to allow weapons at the Exhibition proved to be an extremely controversial one. The Exhibition was - among other things - supposed to promote world

peace. Disappointed that weapons of war would be included, pacifists protested that they should be banned. Nonetheless, these objections were ignored and numerous countries, including France and India, included weapons in their exhibits.

"A gun that ultimately missed the mark"

STEAM LOCOMOTIVES

The Power of the Railway

Made by: Thomas Crampton and Robert Stephenson and Company Date: 1851

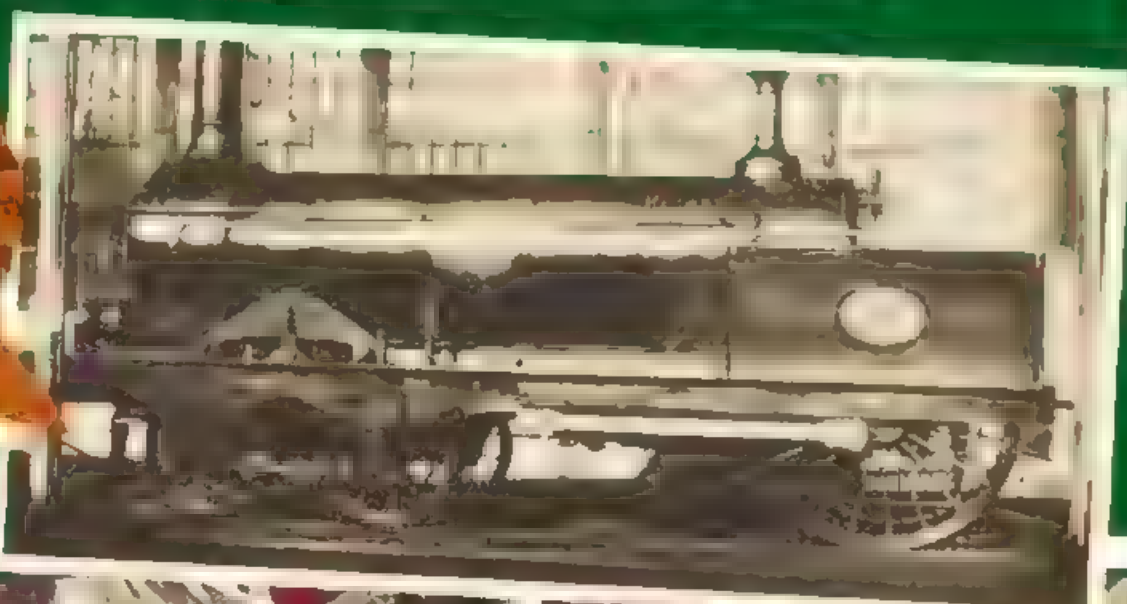
The Great Exhibition aimed to highlight Britain's industrial power, so it is hardly surprising that numerous steam locomotives were placed on display. This particular one, No 136 Folkestone, was a Crampton locomotive, designed by English engineer Thomas Crampton and built by manufacturers Robert Stephenson and Company for the South Eastern Railway in 1851. It would have interested visitors of the Exhibition as many of them would have travelled by railway to get there.

Crampton locomotives like The Folkestone had a distinctive look, usually with a 4-2-0 wheel arrangement, with four bearing wheels, two large driving wheels and no trailing wheels. While another one of Crampton's locomotives, Liverpool, won a gold medal at the Exhibition, they were not really used in Britain - they worked best on very

straight railways and so they were not suited to the curves and gradients of the British railways, although they fared well on the Continent.

Interestingly, Stephenson also had another exhibit, a hydraulic press on display. It had the distinction of being the biggest object at the Exhibition, weighing a massive 1,144 tons. Operated by just one man, it had been used to lift the heavy metal tubes during the building of Britannia Tubular Bridge in Bangor, which Stephenson designed.

"A locomotive that ran out of steam"



VICTORIAN MAJOLICA

A Touch of French Elegance

Displayed by: Minton & Co Date: 1849

British ceramic manufacturers Minton & Co introduced majolica, a new form of pottery, to the public for the first time at the Great Exhibition. Two different types were developed by French ceramicist Léon Arnoux for Minton, the first being a rare, tin-glazed majolica and the second being a vibrantly coloured, hard-wearing lead-glazed earthenware, originally known as 'Palissy ware'.

Arnoux developed majolica in 1849 and they proved to be a major hit, as they were soon replicated widely. Many of the designs imitated the style of porcelain made by French manufacturer Sèvres, and this style became popular throughout England during the 1870s. Interestingly, Minton was the only British ceramic manufacturer to be awarded a Council Medal, the highest award given by the Exhibition jury.

Minton was also known for its parian ware, a type of biscuit porcelain, which could also be found at the Exhibition. In fact, Queen Victoria liked Minton's parian ware so much, she actually purchased a dessert service from their stand the day before the Exhibition.

"Awarded the Royal Seal of Approval"



Margaret: *The true story of the tragic princess*

Princess Margaret seemed destined for a charmed life but it all went wrong when she was unable to marry the love of her life

Written by Melanie Clegg





Princess Margaret

*W*hen Princess Margaret was born in her mother's ancestral home, Glamis Castle

in Scotland, at 9.22pm on the evening of 21 August 1930, no one could have predicted that she would one day become one of the most photographed and talked about women in the world. At the time of her birth, Margaret's father, Albert, Duke of York, was second in line to the throne and although his elder brother David, Prince of Wales, who was heir of their father George V, was still in his thirties and yet to choose a wife and start his own family, it still seemed very unlikely that he would become king. However, as the happy, wholesome family life enjoyed by the Duke and Duchess of York and their adorable children became increasingly favourably compared to the rakish bachelor about town existence of his elder brother, many people, including King George and Queen Mary, began to openly wonder if perhaps the shy and retiring Duke, who was a dutiful son and loyal husband and father, would not make a much better king than his brother. Some men might have jumped at this opportunity, but Albert was horrified as he had absolutely no desire at all to inherit the great pressures and responsibilities that came with the crown and was aghast at the prospect of this great burden falling upon his young daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret.

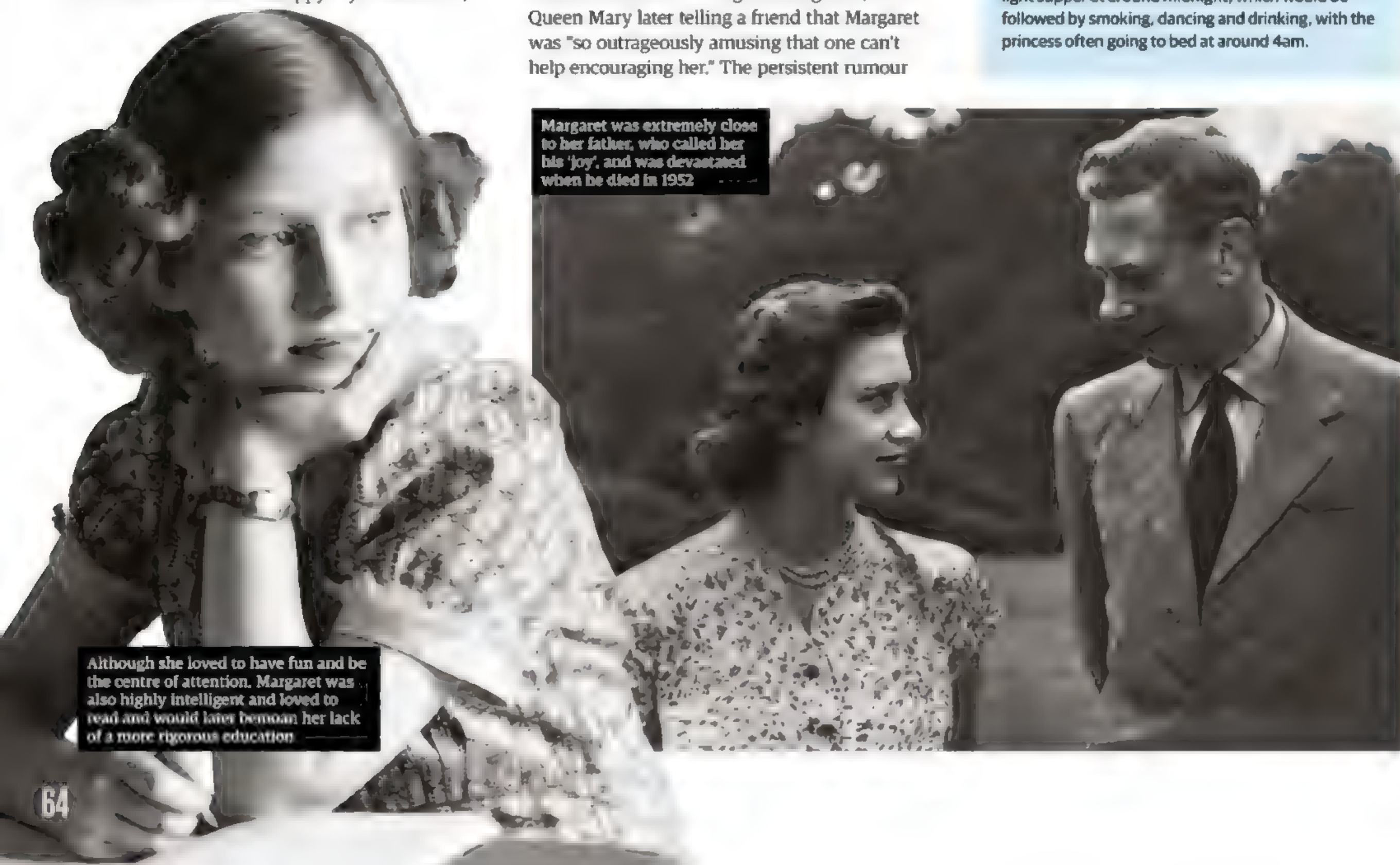
Although the Duke of York was the product of a strict and rather unhappy royal childhood,

his wife Elizabeth, who was a daughter of the Earl of Strathmore, had enjoyed a very different upbringing as part of a large, warm and loving Scottish aristocratic family and was keen for her own children to have the same happy, carefree experience. Home for the Yorks was primarily 145 Piccadilly, their town house in London, with occasional excursions to their country home, Royal Lodge in the Windsor Great Park, which despite the rather humble name was a seven-bedroomed Georgian mansion set in 98 acres of grounds. The Duchess of York had mostly been educated at home by governesses and although she had done well and was fluent in French, it had not been especially rigorous and she was keen for her own daughters to also be educated at home rather than at school with the aim, as Randolph Churchill put it, of raising her daughters to be not much more than simply 'nicely behaved young ladies', which she felt to be far more important than any intellectual attainments. Much later, Margaret would complain about her lack of proper education, which she felt had not properly prepared her for a life in the public eye where she would be expected to meet and converse with people from all walks of life. But at the time she thoroughly enjoyed her carefree existence of not especially arduous lessons punctuated by riding lessons, long walks with the family's beloved pet dogs, bicycle rides, dancing and music - becoming a particularly accomplished singer and piano player along the way. Although her father had a difficult relationship with his parents, they doted on their two little granddaughters, with Queen Mary later telling a friend that Margaret was "so outrageously amusing that one can't help encouraging her." The persistent rumour

Margaret's Daily Routine

Free of most royal duties and responsibilities, Margaret enjoyed an indolent and pampered life

Before her marriage, Margaret's daily routine at Clarence House began at 9am with breakfast in bed, after which she would spend the next two hours lazing in bed chain smoking, listening to the radio and reading the newspapers. At 11am she would have an hour-long bath, after which she would spend half an hour doing her hair and make-up before going downstairs for a vodka 'pick me up'. Lunch with her mother would follow at 1pm and would involve four courses accompanied by half a bottle of wine per person. Margaret would spend the afternoon lounging around, listening to her records, sticking pictures in her photo albums, practicing speeches or writing letters, taking a break at 4.30pm for tea. An hour later, Margaret would start to get ready for the evening, redoing her hair and make-up and swapping her day outfit for either a cocktail dress or, if she was going out to a formal event, an evening gown and jewels. Margaret would then descend to the drawing room for drinks before venturing out for the night, returning much later for more drinks and, often, a light supper at around midnight, which would be followed by smoking, dancing and drinking, with the princess often going to bed at around 4am.



Margaret was extremely close to her father, who called her his 'joy', and was devastated when he died in 1952

Although she loved to have fun and be the centre of attention, Margaret was also highly intelligent and loved to read and would later bemoan her lack of a more rigorous education

Margaret: The True Story Of The Tragic Princess

that Margaret had been born deaf and dumb quickly dissipated after she began to appear more frequently in public and she and her sister were regularly mobbed by huge crowds when they went for their daily walk with their nanny, Clara Knight. Everything that the little princesses wore instantly became fashionable and their photographs often appeared on the front covers of newspapers and magazines - increasing public perception that perhaps their father would make a far more suitable king than his scapegrace brother, who was 41 when he became king in January 1936 and still showed no signs of settling down. Margaret was six years old in the autumn of 1936 when the mounting crisis about her uncle's relationship with American divorcée Wallis Simpson reached its peak with a series of impassioned family meetings that would eventually result in his decision to abdicate the throne and pass it to his younger brother, the Duke of York, making Margaret third in line to the throne after her sister Elizabeth.

It was with much regret that the York family left behind their previous relatively private existence in Mayfair and took up residence in the vast and uncomfortable Buckingham Palace, where Margaret was given a room overlooking the Mall. Although their father, who had taken the name George VI, was unhappy in his new role, their more confident and outgoing mother was in her

element and it was from observing her on the rare occasions that they took part in official and state functions, that the two princesses learnt how to behave in public. Like their father, Elizabeth was shy and preferred a quiet life, but right from the very start, Margaret loved to be the centre of attention and relished the few opportunities that she had to share the spotlight with her parents. However, this happy childhood was to be cut short

by the outbreak of WWII in September 1939, just over a week after Margaret's ninth birthday. At first, their parents were encouraged to send them to the safety of Canada but the Queen refused to even consider it, saying that "The children won't go without me. I won't go without the king and the king will never leave." Instead, the family retreated to the relative safety of Windsor Castle, where the princesses remained for the rest of the war, sustained by regular visits from their

parents, their lessons and preparations for the plays and musical revues that they put on in the castle's state rooms. It was at Windsor that they made their broadcast to the children of the Commonwealth in October 1940, during which they empathised with all the other children separated from their parents and concluded with a cheery "good night and good luck to you all". As German bombing raids on England intensified and it became increasingly likely that Windsor

Castle would become a target, the princesses slept in a bomb shelter beneath one of the towers. Margaret was 14 when the war finally ended in 1945 and like most of her peers was ready to make up for lost time and have some fun, beginning on VE Day itself when she and Elizabeth, carefully chaperoned by 16 hand-picked members of the royal household including the king's equerry Peter Townsend, ventured out of one of Buckingham Palace's back doors incognito in order to mingle with the crowds and share the nation's joy. For the first time, the two princesses walked freely through the capital's streets, even joining in a conga line around Trafalgar Square. Later, Princess Elizabeth would recall that it was "one of the most memorable nights of my life" but for her sister Margaret, who was much more outgoing and even more hungry to experience all the excitement that life had to offer, it was a revelation.

Before she was out of her teens, Margaret was the undisputed leader of her own clique, known as the 'Margaret Set', of well connected, wealthy, party-loving young aristocrats - all of whom had plenty of money to burn and an apparently endless appetite for fun, fashion, champagne and dancing, which they did all night in the most exclusive nightclubs in London or at weekend parties at their various stately homes. However, although her name was romantically linked with a few of the more eligible and handsome young men, most notably 'Johnny', the Earl of Dalkeith and heir of the Duke of Buccleuch, and 'Sunny', the Earl of Blandford and heir of the Duke of Marlborough, both of whom were considered very suitable matches for the King's younger daughter, she seemed strangely uninterested in any of them. The reason

"Rumours began to fly around the royal household about Margaret's unusually close friendship with King George's equerry, Group Captain Peter Townsend"



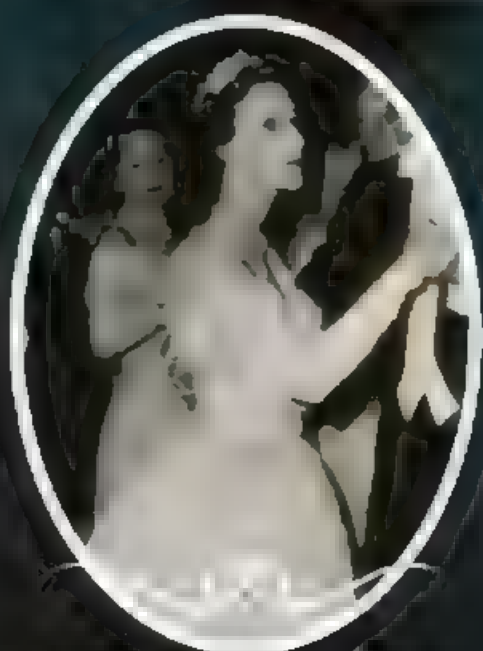
At the time of their marriage in May 1960, Margaret had no idea just how unconventional her new husband's lifestyle really was



Princess Margaret

Margaret's Style Moments

We take a look at how Margaret's style changed over the decades



Margaret travelled to Paris on more than one occasion to be fitted for dresses by Christian Dior. Perhaps the most lovely of his creations for Margaret is the beautiful evening gown that he designed for her 21st birthday.



Margaret's wedding dress was one of Norman Hartnell's most elegant creations - deliberately kept as simple as possible, it was made from silk organza with over 30 metres of fabric being used for the skirt alone.



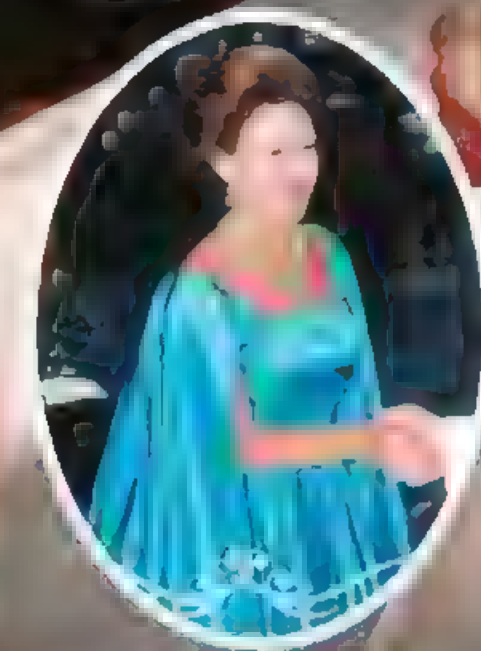
After her wedding, Margaret's style became more mature and even more glamorous - she often wore the Poltimore tiara she had bought just before her wedding, which could also be converted into a dazzling necklace.



In the 1960s Margaret developed a taste for richer fabrics and colours. Although she enjoyed wearing the more bohemian styles espoused by her husband's arty friends, she still liked to look classically elegant on special occasions.



In the 1970s, inspired by her holiday home on Mustique, Margaret loved to wear flowing, kaftan style dresses, which suited her beautifully. She had long been one of the best dressed members of the royal family.



By the 1980s, Margaret's style had become more relaxed. In 1984, she wore this bright blue dress to the wedding of Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales. It was a classic example of her elegant and sophisticated style.

As a young woman, Margaret loved wearing the gowns designed for her by Norman Hartnell, whose pretty designs enhanced her delicate prettiness and looked especially delightful when photographed, as in this birthday portrait by Cecil Beaton.

Princess of Fashion

Thanks to her glamorous style, Princess Margaret was one of the most photographed women in the world

From her earliest childhood, Margaret's fashion choices had been the subject of intense scrutiny with everything she wore being copied all around the world, from the pretty dresses that she wore as a teenager to the frothy, romantic Norman Hartnell gowns that she loved to wear to evening functions. Always interested in fashion and keen to look her best, as a young woman Margaret took advantage of the fact that unlike her sister, Elizabeth, she was not expected to patriotically only wear clothes designed by British designers but was free to experiment with the beautiful clothes being produced by the French fashion houses, most notably Christian Dior, whose clothes she often wore, finding that his innovative 'new look' style was particularly flattering to her slender figure and 23-inch waist. Thanks to her extraordinary good looks, love of glamour and innate sense of style, Margaret would become one of the most photographed women in the world and a definite royal trendsetter whose sartorial choices were splashed all over the magazines of the day. After her marriage, Margaret's style became more bohemian, in keeping with the glamorous celebrity circles that she and her husband moved in, and although she was still dressed by all the most expensive and exclusive designers, such as Mary Quant and Yves St Laurent, her style was very much in keeping with the colourful and carefree spirit of Swinging Sixties London. Later in life, as she struggled with her weight and health issues, Margaret's fashion sense became more restrained but she still loved to dazzle in diamonds and expensive evening gowns and in the 1980s became known for the flamboyant kaftans that she wore in her holiday home on Mustique, often accessorised with high heels, plenty of jewellery, a turban and, naturally, a glass of whisky and water.

for this would become clear shortly after her father's death in February 1952, when rumours began to fly around the royal household about Margaret's unusually close friendship with King George's equerry Group Captain Peter Townsend, a war hero who was 16 years older than her and recently divorced from his first wife. Margaret had been devoted to her father, who liked to say that while her sister Elizabeth was his 'pride', Margaret was his 'joy', and was so devastated by his death that she had to be given sedatives. Townsend, who had been a great favourite of the king, had proved invaluable at this time and the pair had grown closer, with the result that eyebrows were raised when he was appointed Comptroller of Margaret's mother's household, which had moved to Clarence House after the king's death. The public didn't become aware of the situation until after the coronation of Margaret's sister Elizabeth in 1953, when a few sharp-eyed observers noticed the young princess removing a piece of lint from Townsend's shoulder – a curiously intimate gesture between a senior member of the royal family and one of her mother's staff. With the relationship out in the open, Townsend proposed to Margaret, who gladly accepted – much to the dismay of her mother and sister, who were inclined to give their permission but foresaw difficulties ahead thanks to Townsend's divorced status. According to the Royal Marriages Act 1772, permission for Margaret to marry before the age of 25 would have to be granted by her sister but even with that permission, there was still the hurdle of the Church of England and British Cabinet to be overcome, both of whom were disinclined

to look favourably upon the possibility of the princess marrying a divorced man and warned that Margaret would be unable to have a church wedding and might even have to live abroad, like her uncle, the Duke of Windsor, if she went ahead with the marriage.

Although she was naturally dispirited by the lack of official support and the fact that Townsend was posted to Brussels for two years, Margaret was considerably heartened by the fact that the public were almost unanimously in favour of the marriage and viewed her predicament with a great deal of sympathy. The suffering and losses

that had afflicted much of the population during the war had softened social attitudes towards divorced people and it was increasingly felt that the stigma that they suffered was inappropriate and out of step with the times. In the summer of 1955, keen to see her sister happy and with Margaret's 25th birthday rapidly approaching, Queen Elizabeth worked with the Prime Minister, Anthony Eden, himself a divorced man, to put together a proposal that would allow Margaret

“Margaret increasingly threw herself into her hedonistic lifestyle and, already prone to petulance, became even more difficult, capricious and rude”

to marry and retain her royal title and position albeit with the loss of her place in the succession. However, it was doomed to failure and at the end of October, Margaret was informed that if she went ahead with the marriage, which at 25 she was now free to do without the permission of her sister, she would lose not just her place in the succession but also her title, royal income and associated rights and privileges. It was a terrible choice to make and Margaret finally had to concede defeat, which she did in a public announcement a few days later. She and Townsend would not meet again for another 30 years, when they had

Margaret went cavorting with the likes of Rolling Stone Mick Jagger in the 1960s



Princess Margaret

a private reunion at Kensington Palace, after which she told a friend that Townsend, who was by now very elderly, "had not changed at all." Deeply distressed by the end of her romance and dreams of marrying the man that she had loved for several years, Margaret increasingly threw herself into her hedonistic lifestyle and, already prone to petulance, became even more difficult, capricious and rude. Once again her name was linked to a parade of titled, eligible bachelors but there were no serious romances until 1958 when she met the photographer Antony Armstrong-Jones at a dinner party. Often bored and resentful of the royal existence that she felt had robbed her of her true happiness, Margaret was excited by Antony's louche style, bohemian lifestyle and wide circle of celebrity friends - although she might have been rather less thrilled if she had known that she was not only not his only girlfriend but that he was also involved in a three-way affair with his married friends Jeremy and Camilla Fry, who would later give birth to Antony's daughter shortly after his wedding to Margaret. He would whisk her on the back of his motorcycle to his flat in distinctly downmarket Rotherhithe, where Margaret would attempt to cook him dinner before they went out for the night, with Antony usually wearing his trademark fashionable skin tight trousers. Margaret was infatuated with Antony but it's not certain if it would have become anything more if she had not received word in October 1959 that Peter Townsend was about to marry a Belgian



As her marriage gradually deteriorated, Margaret took solace in the joys of raising her two children, David and Sarah



The queen would be greatly upset when her younger sister passed away in February 2002

woman, who was even younger than Margaret and bore a remarkable resemblance to her. Within a few days of the news breaking, Margaret informed her sister that she was also engaged.

Margaret and Antony, who was created 1st Earl of Snowdon the following year, were married in Westminster Abbey on 6 May 1960. The couple moved into a huge apartment in Kensington Palace after returning from their honeymoon, which was a six-week cruise of the Caribbean in the royal yacht Britannia, and were briefly very happy together. However, cracks were beginning to appear before their son David was born in November 1961 and by the time their daughter Sarah arrived in 1964, the marriage was very definitely on the rocks. Although Margaret greatly enjoyed hobnobbing with her husband's bohemian circle of friends, she hated the fact that he often prioritised his work and other pursuits over her demands and was also increasingly suspicious that he was having affairs with other women, which in the mid 1960s led her to retaliate by having extramarital relationships and flirtations of her own, allegedly with a number of famous musicians and Hollywood stars, although none of these rumours have been proven. The breakdown of the Snowdon marriage was also exacerbated

by the vast quantities of alcohol and, allegedly, other substances being consumed that led to vicious fights and poor behaviour on both sides. By 1973, when Margaret met Roddy Llewellyn, who was 17 years her junior and would be her companion for the next eight years, the marriage had completely broken down and when news of her relationship with Llewellyn broke in February 1976, it was swiftly followed by an announcement that Margaret's marriage was at an end after 16 turbulent years. Margaret never remarried after her divorce to Antony was finalised in 1978, preferring instead to remain alone and dividing her time between Kensington Palace and trips to her holiday home on Mustique. The salacious stories that had emerged in the wake of her failed marriage had done much to harm her popularity, despite the fact that she was the president of several charities and patron of many more. Sadly the last three decades of her life were increasingly marred by poor health, which was largely the result of heavy drinking and smoking, which she gave up soon after having part of her left lung removed in 1985. She also suffered cardiac problems and had more than one stroke, which had left her seriously debilitated by the time of her death, following another stroke, in February 2002 at the age of 77. After her death, her cousin Lord Litchfield remarked that Margaret's life had been "a life unfulfilled" and certainly it is easy to wonder just how different her path might have been if she had lived in a later, more liberal time and had been permitted to be true to herself and marry the man that she loved.

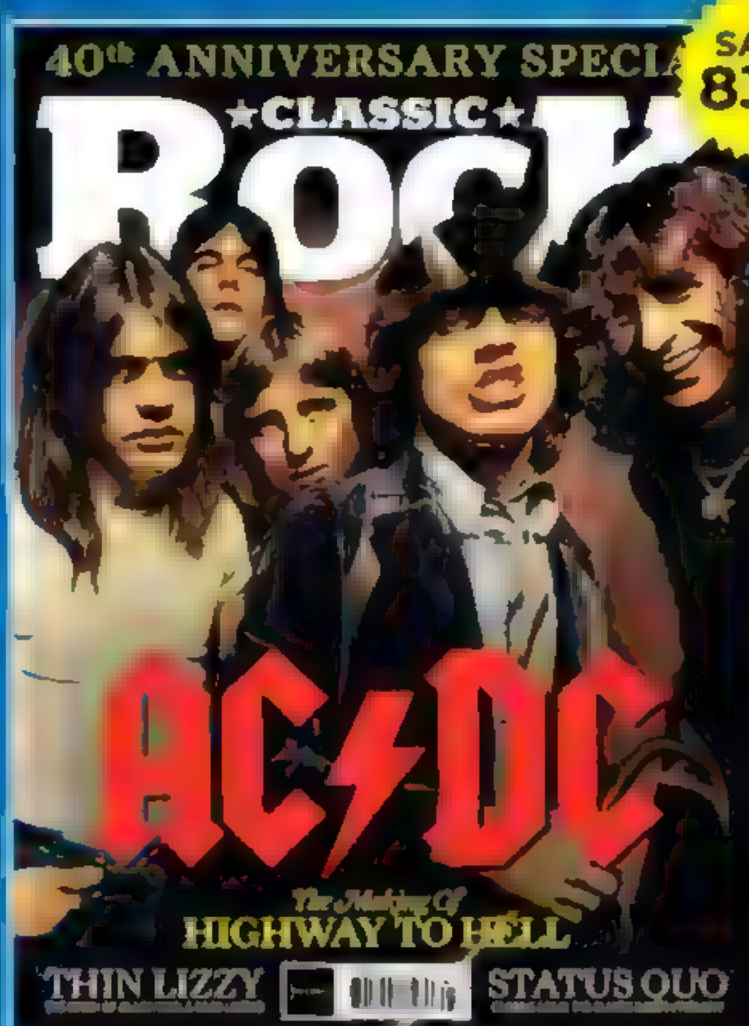
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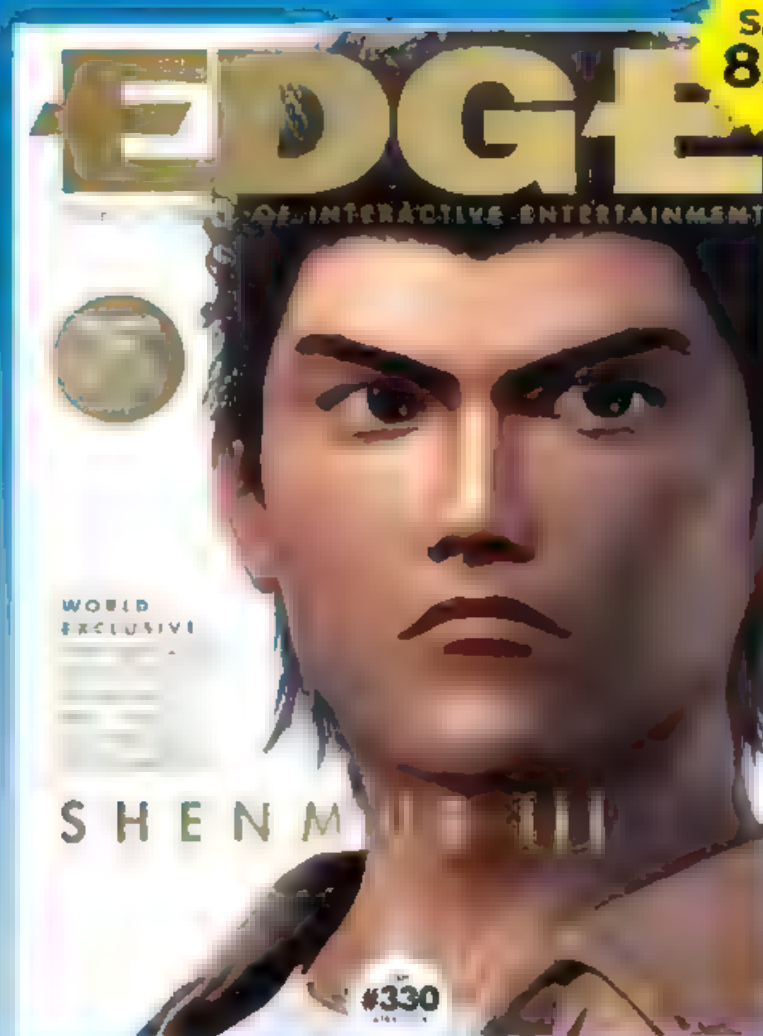
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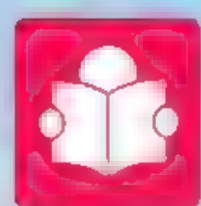
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Ellen Elliott Jack





The Adventures of **CAPTAIN JACK**

**A whimsical woman combined her own stories with her
vivid imagination to create a colourful life in Colorado**

Written by Jan MacKell Collins

*"I was born November 4, 1842, in New Lantern,
Nottingham, England."*

So begins a seemingly plain and humble autobiography by a woman who was anything but plain, or humble. Ellen Elliott Jack's book, *The Fate Of A Fairy Or Twenty Seven Years In The Far West*, would later tell of the spunky little woman's amazing adventures. And although her facts were often sprinkled with a good dose of fiction, her story is very much worth telling.

When she was seven years old, Ellen met a 'gypsy queen' at Nottingham's annual Goose Fair who touched her on the head. "This child was born to be a great traveller, and if she had been a male would have been a great mining expert," she said. "She is a Rosicrucian, born to find hidden treasures. She will meet great sorrows and be a widow early in life. Fire will cause her great trouble and losses." Ellen had already lost one sister in a fire. And as a teen, she had a brief romance with a man, 'Carl', who stabbed her in a fit of jealousy after seeing her in the company of

her male cousin. Ellen recovered, and when her sister Lydia and her husband sailed to New York, Ellen successfully begged to go along.

Ellen loved New York, but fell ill and was unable to return to England with her sister until she was well. Upon boarding another ship, she recalled the horror of assisting a doctor in amputating the legs of a young Irish girl. But she also met first officer Charles E Jack. The couple married at Liverpool in 1860 and returned to New York before Jack was called for duty during the Civil War.

The Jack's first child, Nettie, was born between 1862 and 1864. During this time, Ellen claimed she took charge of a ring presented to her husband by General Robert E Lee, attended a 'president's reception' with her husband and met President and Mrs Lincoln, and toured Europe. After Charles Jack returned from the war with heart trouble, Ellen gave birth to a son. Both the infant and Nettie died just before the Jacks moved to Chicago.

Ellen Elliott Jack

Over the next three years another daughter, Jenny, was born. The family also lost everything in a fire and briefly farmed in Kansas before returning to Brooklyn. Ellen's last child, Daisy, was born just before Charles Jack died in 1873.

Ellen next built a hotel called the Bon Ton, but it burned in March of 1876 as she rescued her daughters and their nurse from the second floor. Daisy died three years later. Soon afterwards Ellen made friends with psychic Madam Clifford who, like the gypsy queen, told Ellen she was "born to find hidden treasures." Ellen decided to head west, leaving Jenny with her sister-in-law. She arrived in Denver in about 1880, where she ran into her former nursemaid, Jennie. The woman advised her to go to Gunnison, but Ellen went to Leadville first. There, she witnessed 'Curley Frank' and another gambler kill each other in a shootout. Ellen heeded Jennie's advice and headed to Gunnison, where she arrived in the spring of 1881.

Ellen's first night in Gunnison was spent at the Gunnison House where she paid a dollar to sleep in the lobby of the crowded hotel. The landlady advised Ellen to hide her valuables on her person, "as this is a very rough place." Ellen followed the woman's advice, saying she had "diamonds and government bonds sewed up in my bustle." The next morning, Ellen was exploring the town when a stray bullet passed through her cloak. Ellen identified the shooter as 'Wild Bill', who scared her so badly that she shot him. Two lawmen appeared, but Ellen implored them to leave Wild Bill alone, "for he is a dying man." Wild Bill gave her his gun, which the officers tried to take from her after the man died. Ellen told them, "No. He gave me the gun, for you were too big a coward to get it, and you shall never have it."

Ellen next purchased a tent with a cook stove, as well as a lot on Tomichi Avenue. She called her place 'Jack's Cabin' and began advertising a restaurant and 'furnished rooms' in Gunnison's *Daily-News Democrat*. Running a boarding house was no less exciting, for Ellen once discovered a group of marauders pilfering Jack's Cabin. Ellen said one of them was Ute leader Colorow, a "big

buck" with "large gold earrings" who "came to me dancing and trying to touch my hair." Ellen cut a lock of her golden hair for Colorow to keep, and a friendship was formed.

Eventually Ellen constructed some buildings. She rented one of them to Jeff Mickey, whom she had met on her trip to Gunnison. Mickey opened a saloon which became "headquarters for the freighters, and it was very crowded at night." He was quite the businessman; once, the *Gunnison Daily-News Democrat* revealed that the guest of honour at a funeral in the saloon was really only a passed-out drunk. "The joke was a profitable one for Jeff Mickey," the paper explained. The supposed victim, with "burning candles at his head and feet, was better for business purposes, so Mickey said, than a free lunch or brass band." Mickey also opened a gymnasium and 'boxing school' next to the saloon.

Ellen would later attribute a large scar on her forehead to another raid. Jack's Cabin was set on fire and she "was struck on the forehead with a tomahawk" laced with poison. Ellen said she managed to kill some of the attackers before Chief Colorow declared a truce. "Pale face! Me wants to save her," he exclaimed upon seeing her. "Bloody poison killy the white squaw, and we lovey the pale face." [sic] There is no recorded raid in Gunnison at the time, although it is true that Colorow often camped nearby. Only Ellen's scar remained as a testament to her story.

Jack's Cabin made the news again in January of 1882, when escaped convict Jim McClees appeared there. Ellen recalled that one of her employees told her, "There will be trouble in the bunkhouse, for Jim is full [of liquor] and has a gun, and is abusing one of the carpenters." Ellen tried to make McClees leave. Instead, she said, McClees "pulled out his gun to fire at the man. I pulled mine and shot the gun out of his hands and part of his hand off with it." A Sheriff Clark soon came looking for McClees and searched a room "occupied as a sleeping apartment by Mr and Mrs Mickey."

When the officers found a trap door in the floor, 'Mrs Mickey' called out, "There is no use,

Jim; there are fifty men here with guns, and you might as well come out without losing your life or shedding their blood." McClees surrendered, Jeff Mickey was arrested, and Mrs Mickey was notified she must appear in court. Ellen never admitted that she was 'Mrs Mickey'. She did say, however, that she was unduly credited with beating everyone up during a fight in the courtroom and that a news reporter called her "Mrs Captain Jack, the Dare Devil of the West". All that is known for sure is that Ellen accused Sheriff Clark of false arrest while McClees bonded out and returned to Jack's Cabin as he awaited his trial.

Ellen next decided to go to Crested Butte and told Jeff Mickey to leave. Mickey, she said, proposed marriage and promised to stop drinking. When she refused him, he told her that "when I breathe my last breath on earth it will be, 'love for you, my fairy queen', goodbye!" The *Daily News-Democrat* later explained that "when [Mickey] took to drinking there was sure to be trouble. This last spree angered Mrs Mickey so much that hot words followed and she left the house." Ellen went on to Crested Butte. Later that evening at Jack's Cabin, McClees saw Mickey with a vial of morphine powder. "Here's the thing that will end all of my troubles," he said. He died after consuming half of the vial.

The *Daily-News Democrat* noted that Ellen was slow to return to Gunnison because "the telegram instead of reading, 'Jeff has taken poison,' read, 'Jeff has taken horses,' and she supposed he was coming for her with a team." The paper also revealed Ellen was trying to lease the Miners' Boarding House in Crested Butte "hoping in that way to get her husband away from his present business". Ellen "thought her absence would bring him to his senses, and sober him up." But Ellen had already placed a new advertisement for Jack's Cabin, which appeared on the same day as

Mining for Tourists

Ellen Jack turned to holidaymakers and old-west enthusiasts to make money in her later years

Having published her autobiography in 1910, Ellen Jack was redefining herself not just as a mining entrepreneur and widow, but as a local folk hero and legend. The story of the two gypsy prophecies, the tragic loss of children, the death of her husband and then to become a successful prospector, survive a scalping attempt and to have proved herself proficient with a gun, all added up to one formidable woman and a tale that could draw a crowd.

Having already established herself as a 'champion of Gunnison' according to the *Salida Mail* newspaper in

1899, the transition from prospector to county attraction was perhaps not as big a leap as it could have been. Having settled in Colorado Springs she set up cabins for travellers seeking an authentic western experience, posed for photographs and sold postcards calling herself Mrs Capt Jack, queen of the Rockies.



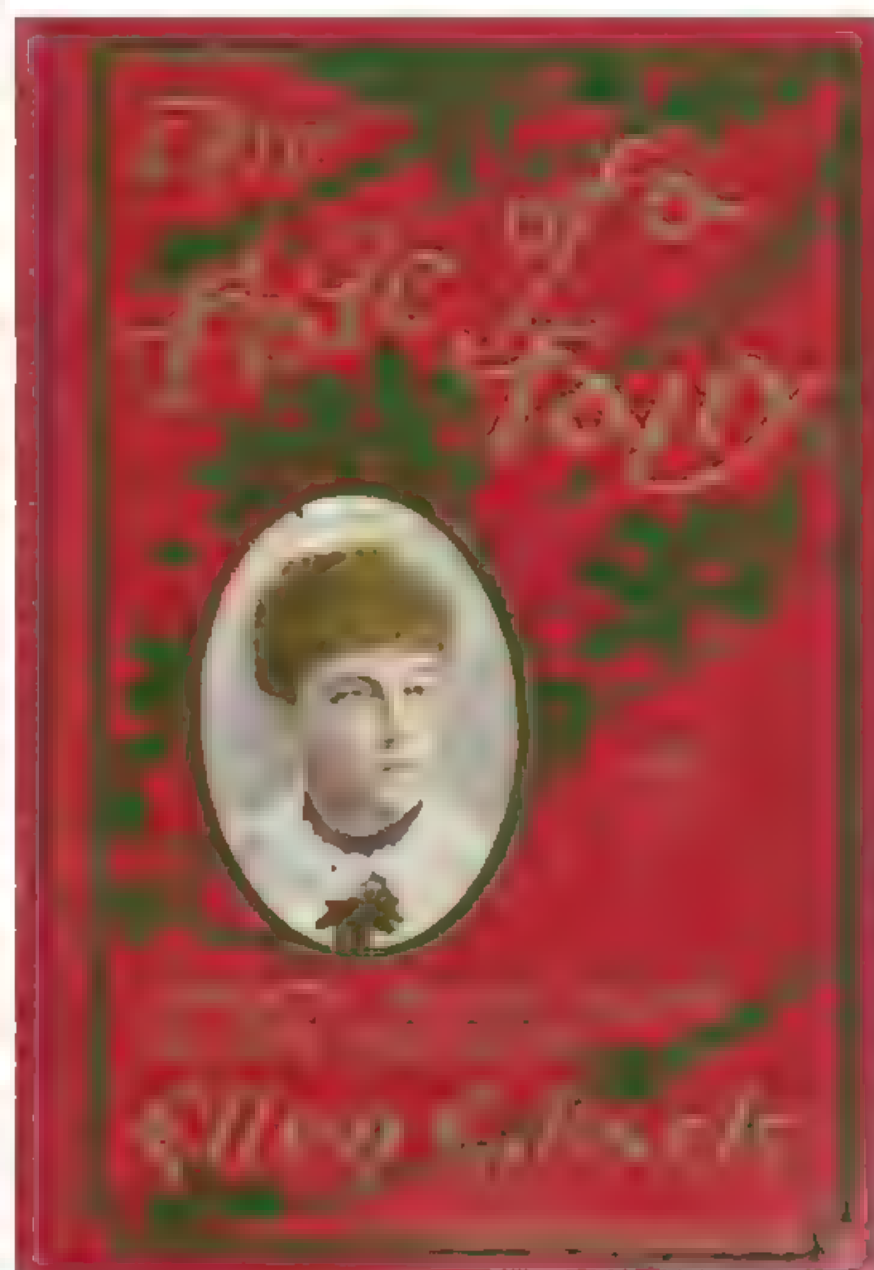
The Adventures Of Captain Jack

Colorado boasted a beautiful natural landscape around the late 19th century.

"He gave me the gun, for you were too big a coward to get it, and you shall never have it"



Jack's stories weren't always completely truthful but she did live an extraordinary life



Ellen's book, *Fate of a Fairy*, sold moderately well. Today this original copy is highly collectible, and modern paperback copies are also available



Searching For Silver

Ellen Jack was there for the height of Colorado's Silver Boom

4,235 g/mt
(grams per metric ton) of silver
produced from the Black Queen Mine

Equal to

\$3,900
per ton in modern money

over
\$82 million
worth of silver mined during Colorado
silver boom

2,125

active mining claims in Gunnison County today

240 million

troy ounces of silver mined from
Colorado Mineral Belt



Mickey's funeral. "The business will be carried on as heretofore," it said, "and Mrs Jeff Mickey will be glad to see old friends."

Within a month of Mickey's death, Ellen rented out Jack's Cabin and ventured "into the mountains in Wild Cat Gulch where the Indians camped," looking for mining investments. This time her partner was sometime outlaw Bill Edwards, who promised to share any gold discoveries if Ellen would bail him out of jail. Edwards kept his promise and for the first time, Ellen made money off of the Big Congo and Maggie Jack mining claims. She also became half owner of the Black Queen Mine near Crystal City.

In 1882 a boarder at Jack's Cabin, Redmond Walsh, proposed to Ellen. The couple travelled to Denver, but the night before the wedding, Ellen dreamt of children crying and awoke with a sense of dread. During the ceremony, the children's crying sounded again, as well as a man's voice. Startled, Ellen dropped the ring on the floor, but Walsh "grabbed my hand and put the ring on my finger without any more ceremony."

Afterwards, Walsh left Ellen at a hotel and did not return.

Ellen caught the train back to Gunnison the next morning. Walsh eventually returned too, but spent much of his time away from home. A few months later, he asked Ellen to take out a note for \$2,600, explaining that the Black Queen's payroll was short. But the miners only received half of their promised pay. A cashier from the bank informed Ellen that Walsh had 'duped' her, and advised that Walsh had his eye on her half of the Black Queen. "Be on your lookout for that man," he said. "He would not hesitate to take your life to get that mine."

The Adventures Of Captain Jack



“Ellen also caught Walsh planting dynamite under her window as his debtors came after her”

Walsh, it turned out, was married to another woman. Ellen confronted him and recalled that his face turned into “an incarnated demon, and such a hellish, fiendish look I never saw on a human face before.” The next day, he tried to make Ellen sign a contract deeding half of her properties to him. When she threw it in the fire, Walsh “grabbed me and tried to stick my head in the fire. I clung to him and screamed until two men came and took him by the collar, and then he let go of me.” Ellen’s hair, she said, “was nearly all burned and my face and neck were in blisters.”

Ellen also caught Walsh planting dynamite under her window as his debtors came after her. She divorced him but spent two years battling him in court. Next, in 1886, she was arrested for applying for the pension left to her by Charles Jack because nobody knew her by that name. It took almost a year to gain an acquittal, at which time she was embroiled in another suit with the other owners of the Black Queen. Ellen’s money troubles continued: she nearly lost the Black Queen in 1888, but managed to invest in the Little Mandie mine. Property she purchased in Ouray in 1891 was seized to pay an outstanding bill.

In 1894 Denver’s *Queen Bee*, a feminist newspaper “devoted to the interests of humanity, woman’s political quality and individuality,” at last defended Ellen. “Captain Ellen E Jack is back

on her claim near Gunnison, again,” the paper reported. “The powers that be have had the wiley Captain Jack arrested for defending her claim at the point of her pistols ... Men are simply absurd or they would let her alone, and fight professional pugilists and small dogs. It is shameful how the lords of creation will condescend to badger a plucky woman just because they like to have a winning fight.”

Ellen was likely not aware of the article, for she never mentioned it. Her autobiography ends after her account of a trip through Utah and Arizona, as well as her musings on God and how far society had come. “So, cheer up, for the aura light is breaking through the dark circle of apprehension,” she concluded. “And this is the prophecy of the Fated Fairy and a wanderer for twenty-seven years in the far West.” Ellen’s adventures, however, were far from over. In February, 1900, the *Aspen Daily Times* reported that Ellen sold her interest in the Black Queen and was heading to Cripple Creek. “She is a good rustler and will make a strike in that camp,” the paper predicted.

In Cripple Creek, however, Ellen did not invest in any

mines and only rented a lodging house above a grocery store. By 1903 she was in Colorado Springs, where it was reported a year later that she had established a mining claim in nearby Cheyenne Canyon called the Mars group with four gold and copper mines. There also was a ‘tent town’ called Camp Jack. Ellen said the claims were averaging \$21 per ton.

Beginning in about 1907, Ellen began generating photographic postcards, featuring herself in various scenarios. In the earliest known image, she poses along with several men, two burros and some equipment. The image is captioned hopefully, “Mrs Capt Jack Looking for a Company to Buy Mine.” Next, in 1909, the *Colorado Springs Gazette* reported that Ellen had located a cave “of wonderful formation”, but was keeping its location a secret until she could purchase the property and turn it into a tourist attraction.” Ellen did establish a resort in Cheyenne Canyon, calling it ‘Captain Jack’s’. Visitors were told colourful stories of her adventures as Ellen sold them her postcards and copies of *Fate Of A Fairy*. During 1912, her advertisement in a traveller’s guide of the Pikes Peak region commanded, “Stop at Captain Jack’s!”

Ellen maintained a separate home in Colorado Springs, where a passerby remembered seeing her “brilliantly coloured parrots in the trees in front of her house.” In 1921 she filed for patents on her Cobra No 3 and Mars No 1 mining claims. Unfortunately, a flood that washed out the road to Captain Jack’s was her undoing. Her heart failed and she died on June 17. She was buried in Colorado Springs’ Evergreen Cemetery. Her long-forgotten daughter Jenny appeared in the hopes of gaining something from her mother’s will, but received nothing.

Ellen’s rival tour operator, Nora Gaines, purchased Ellen’s resort in 1923. The *Colorado Springs Gazette* noted that the “New Captain Jack’s Place Now Being Constructed on the High Drive” would offer rest for hikers and motorists, but Nora died just ten years later. The property was abandoned, and the “rotting cabins” were torn down in 1965. Today, Captain Jack’s Mountain Bike Trail outside of Colorado Springs is named for her.

Captain Jack's grave as it appears today. Ellen would probably like it that she is buried in the same block as Colorado Springs founder William Jackson Palmer





OPERATION BODENPLATTE

LOW COUNTRIES, 1 JANUARY 1945

Written by Stuart Hadaway

At dawn on 1 January 1945, Allied airfields across Holland, Belgium and northern France were shocked to find swarms of German aircraft come pouring out of the morning gloom. For months the Luftwaffe had played shy, staying behind their own lines and avoiding major confrontations, but now they unleashed a savage blow to try and re-establish their own air superiority over North West Europe. It would be the last great charge of the once-vaunted Luftwaffe, and a pyrrhic victory.

In June 1944 the Allies had landed in Normandy under a blanket of aerial support. After establishing their beach head in Normandy, they had broken out, again with air power proving a crucial factor. Northern France had been liberated, followed by Belgium and the southern portions of Holland. An attempt to liberate the rest of Holland had failed in September 1944, and then in December the Germans



Air power was crucial to ground operations to liberate Europe

had counter-attacked through the forests of the Ardennes. Although they had struck severe blows against the Allied, and especially American, forces, that offensive had ultimately failed. By the end of the year the Allies were well positioned and building up their forces. The Royal Air Force's (RAF) Second Tactical Air Force (2TAF) was well established in Belgium and southern Holland, with the United States Army Air Force (USAAF) Ninth Air Force in southern Belgium and France. Both had established air superiority over their front lines, and provided thousands of reconnaissance, fighter-bomber and medium bomber sorties every day to support the ground forces.

On the other side of the lines, the German Luftwaffe had been on the back foot for months. Through 1944 the Allied Combined Bomber Offensive (CBO) had been ruthlessly effective in defeating the Luftwaffe. Not only were factories and

oil production facilities damaged or destroyed, but as German war production was increasingly dispersed to avoid air raids, the transport networks were so disrupted that concentrating and assembling components was ever more difficult. The bombing raids forced the Germans to focus their dwindling air resources on fighter production, and then concentrate those forces on home defence. The groups that provided tactical support of the ground forces, which had for so long been a cornerstone of German combined-arms doctrine, were left dwindling just at a time when the German army was coming under intolerable pressure. New innovations like the Messerschmitt Me262 jet fighter were too little, too late, and the Luftwaffe suffered high casualties against the massed Allied bombers, especially the American day raids. Long-range fighters such as the P-51 Mustang could reach right across Germany and not only engage defenders, but

also increasingly shoot down trainees far behind the lines. Lack of aircraft and fuel already hampered training efforts, and now new pilots were being rushed through their courses and sent to the front with entirely inadequate skills.

On the other hand, the Allies were now riding high. The mass industrial power of the United States coupled with the output of the UK meant that aircraft were seldom in short supply. Aircrews, trained in the safe skies of America, Canada and South Africa were entering the system in such numbers that in 1944 and 1945 thousands of newly qualified aircrew were re-mustered into ground trades due to lack of requirement. From the UK, RAF Bomber Command could now regularly provide over a thousand heavy bombers at night to raid Germany, while the USAAF Eighth Air Force attacked by day. The only area where Allied air power was really lacking was in a shortage of transport aircraft.

Many of the Allied aircraft destroyed were damaged heavy bombers



Operation Bodenplatte ('Baseplate') was intended to provide, if not a knock-out, at least a disabling blow against Allied air power. It would provide the Luftwaffe with vital breathing space from the relentless attacks to recover some of its previous strength. As a concept, it was always highly unlikely that it was going to work. The numbers of aircraft available to the Germans were too low, and the collective resources of the Allied air forces far too high. When originally discussed by the Luftwaffe High Command over the summer of 1944, the concept had been to carefully husband their forces and gather together thousands of fighters to unleash in a series of shattering blows to overwhelm Allied bombing raids, inflicting such heavy casualties that the campaign would have to be suspended. However, in the end, it was decided to strike at the Allied tactical air forces in North West Europe instead, most particularly 2TAF. It was hoped that this would weaken the British forces in Belgium and

Holland, who were becoming perilously close to sweeping down into Germany.

By November 1944, over two thousand fighters had indeed been gathered, albeit with many inexperienced pilots. This effort came at a crippling cost to the German's own reconnaissance and bombing forces, as well as to their strength on the Eastern Front and their home defences. In mid-December, this force had been committed to supporting the Ardennes offensive. Between combat losses and shortages of spares and fuel, it was reduced to about one thousand aircraft by 31 December 1944. Even then only around 750-800 were available for use during Bodenplatte, including a small number of Me262s.

These forces were concentrated together on airfields in three main groups (plus a smaller, diversionary group in the south). Operating so many aircraft from so few airfields would undoubtedly slow down the take off and formation of the attack

"The numbers of aircraft available to the Germans were too low, and the collective resources of the Allied air forces far too high"

waves, but it was necessary. It would be done at night, and quite simply the Luftwaffe now lacked the skills and knowledge base for such large scale operations. Twin-engined Ju-88 night fighters would be used not only for the waves to form up on, but then also to lead them to the points where they would cross the lines. At this point the night fighters would turn back, leaving the fighters on their own to navigate at low altitude and in poor light to their targets - a difficult task even for experienced pilots. To make matters worse, security concerns meant that few units were briefed until just a few hours before take off: some were even apparently given their instructions just moments before climbing into their aircraft.

Once airborne, the attacking waves split along five routes and followed their guide aircraft towards the lines. Again, over-enthusiastic security created problems when the two most northerly formations crossed the Dutch coast: German anti-aircraft defences had not been told to expect them, and, being used to all large formations being enemy, opened fire. Around 15-20 German aircraft were lost to their own defences.

As the night fighters turned back, the formations ploughed on towards their targets. Some 17 airfields were to be attacked, plus Antwerp docks. Although a few of the attacking groups ran into RAF dawn reconnaissance patrols, the attacks still came as a complete surprise. To ease their own supply problems, 2TAF and the Ninth AF had concentrated their units onto far fewer airfields than was ideal, leaving them packed with aircraft and equipment

Destroyed USAAF P47 Thunderbolts at Y-34, Metz



- the ideal target for attackers. On several airfields entire squadrons of aircraft were either taxiing to, or simply sitting on the end of, the runways, awaiting take off and easy targets.

The RAF airfield designated B.78 at Eindhoven was the first to be struck. Sixteen Hawker Typhoons were at the end of the runway, and two had already begun their take off runs. Almost all of the waiting Typhoons were destroyed or damaged, including the two taking off, although one of the waiting pilots claimed to have shot down an attacking Focke-Wulf FW190 - not implausible given the low-level of the raiders. More than 30 RAF aircraft were destroyed and as many damaged (many of them beyond repair) in what No. 247 Squadron records called '23 minutes of Hell'. Several pilots and ground staff were killed, but over 20 raiders were lost to anti aircraft fire, or when three RAF aircraft already airborne engaged them.

At B.56 at Evere, Brussels, the attackers found lines of Allied heavy aircraft - four-engined bombers who had landed there after being damaged over Germany as well as transport aircraft. The commander of Jagdgeschwader 54 'Green Hearts', Willi Heilmann, recalled:

"It was plastered with aircraft as we could see at once. Long rows of uncamouflaged four-engined bombers, for the most part Boeings, stood on the airfield. Within five minutes the whole airfield with aircraft, fuel, tanks, workshops and buildings, had been turned into a smouldering scrap-heap."

Over 30 aircraft were destroyed on the ground, mostly already damaged bombers, and nearly as many again damaged, during a 25 minute-long

By late 1944 German aircraft production could not keep up



Focke Wulf 190D, backbone of the Bodenplatte strike



2ND TACTICAL AIR FORCE

305

AIRCRAFT DESTROYED

190

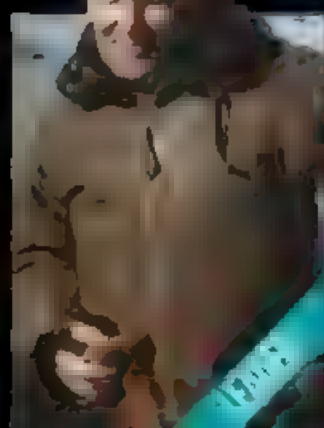
AIRCRAFT DAMAGED

40

PERSONNEL KILLED

WOUNDED

145



AIR MARSHAL SIR ARTHUR CONINGHAM

The Allies' most experienced tactical air force officer, having previously commanded in North Africa and the Mediterranean.

- Was a tactical innovator
- His relations with Field Marshal Montgomery were strained

FIGHTER-BOMBER PILOTS

The core of 2TAF were the fighter-bombers, able to tangle with enemy aircraft or support ground forces.

- Well trained, experienced and with high morale
- Problems supplying widespread airfields meant units were crammed together



HAWKER TYPHOON

The iconic Allied aircraft for the liberation of Europe, used for ground attack but capable of air-to-air combat.

- Fast, powerful and a good gun platform
- Some structural issues and poor high altitude performance



Operation Bodenplatte



LUFTWAFFE

280

AIRCRAFT DESTROYED

143

PERSONNEL KILLED

70

PERSONNEL KILLED

CAPTURED

AIRCRAFT DAMAGED

65

21

WOUNDED



GENERALLEUTNANT ADOLF GALLAND

An excellent fighter pilot, Galland repeatedly fell afoul of internal Nazi politics, where speaking truth to power usually ended badly.

- An innovator with strong first-hand experience of fighter operations
- Poor relations with superiors

FIGHTER PILOTS

The Luftwaffe was once famous for the high quality of its fighter pilots, but standards had slipped by late 1944.

- Strong motivation to defend their homeland from Allied forces
- Lack of training and inexperience



MESSERSCHMITT ME262

The jet-powered Me262 was fast and manoeuvrable, and designed for ground attack as well as aerial fighting.

- Its speed gave the Me263 an advantage over Allied aircraft
- It was only available in very small numbers



attack. Several RAF fighter pilots had managed to get airborne, though, and they took a toll on the attacking German aircraft.

Other attacks were less successful, as pilots with little or no experience in such operations struggled to hit their targets. At B.70 at Duerne, near Antwerp, the nine RAF Squadrons at the airfield escaped with only around 20 aircraft destroyed or damaged. Group Captain Denys Gillam (Battle of Britain veteran and ground attack expert) was unimpressed with the German performance, opining that "If any of my boys put on a show like that, I'd tear them off a strip!" At other sites it appears parts of the attacking force got lost and could not find their target. At Woensdrecht, for example, only around six German aircraft attacked, of which two were shot down by anti-aircraft fire, while no damage was achieved.

At some airfields, Allied aircraft returned from their operations in time to intervene, although they were frequently already low on ammunition. At one airfield, B.88 at Heesch, two waiting squadrons of fighters saw one of the German waves fly overhead, on their way elsewhere, and scrambled to intercept them. Other formations were intercepted as they tried to return home.

By 10am, it was all over. The Germans were withdrawing. They had lost around 270 of their own aircraft, while another 60-70 of their aircraft had been damaged. Over 200 pilots had been killed, wounded, or captured, including more than 20 who were squadron commanders or higher - a crippling number of irreplaceable experienced commanders to lose.

On the Allied side, numbers were hard to gather due to differences in British and American reporting systems, and the numbers of the aircraft (like the four engine bombers) which had already been reported as damaged simply suffered further damage during the raid. Estimates vary from 200 up to 500 Allied aircraft destroyed and damaged, with the figure likely to be towards the higher end. About 40 personnel had been killed, and around 145 wounded.

But whereas the Luftwaffe could not replace their men and machines, the Allies could. Within days the bulk of the lost aircraft and personnel had been replaced, although it would take three weeks to come back up to full strength. There was little discernible effect on operations at the front. Had the Germans made this attack in conjunction with a ground offensive, say the Ardennes attack just two weeks before, the temporary shortage of Allied air power may have had some small effect, although even this is debatable. By January 1945 the Allies had such overpowering superiority that in reality the Germans had no hope of overcoming it.

Bodenplatte had been based on a faulty premise from the start, and had been further hampered by obsessive security and the inexperience of the crews. In the long run, the attack widened the gap between the two forces, and left the Luftwaffe impotent in the face of the renewed Allied attacks on Germany in the spring, including the massive airborne operation to cross the Rhine.

1 JAN 1945

After laying low for a while, the Luftwaffe commit to one more massive attack on the Allies

01 Crossing the coast

The northern German attacks crossed the Dutch coast at 0825, and ran into their own flak. Due to tight security, the guns (used to any large formation being an enemy one) had not been told about the operation, and around 15-20 aircraft were lost to 'friendly fire'.

02 First engagement

At 0905, Flt Lt L Packwood of No 2 Squadron RAF spotted one of the German formations while he was on a dawn reconnaissance patrol east of Utrecht. He engaged them in his Supermarine Spitfire FRXIV, and shot down Unteroffizier Heinrich Braun's Messerschmitt Bf 109 in the first engagement of the day. Ten minutes later further encounters occurred, but the Germans maintained their overall surprise.





10 Licking their wounds

The German return was chaotic. Their formations had been thoroughly broken up, and lost and damaged aircraft landed wherever they could.

09 Last shots

At 1005, two RAF Hawker Tempests shoot down a final Messerschmitt Bf109 over Helmond, bringing Operation Bodenplatte to an end.

08 Catching the leaders

At 0940 two RAF Hawker Typhoons caught one of the Ju-88 guide aircraft near Hamelin, shooting it down. At least one other such formation leader was shot down. Navigation skills were a rare commodity in the late 1944 Luftwaffe, and it is noticeable that several German formations got lost and attacked the wrong targets once their guide aircraft had turned back.

07 Dogfight over Brussels

Three RAF Spitfires took off just as the Germans attacked B 56 at Evere, Brussels, at 0940. They claimed six enemy aircraft destroyed, but could not prevent extensive damage to the airfield.

04 First objective reached

The Messerschmitt Me262 jets of Kampfgeschwader 51 reached B.78 at Eindhoven at 0920, followed by the Focke Wulf FW190s of Jagdgeschwader 3. Two squadrons of RAF Hawker Typhoons were caught taking off, and most of their aircraft were destroyed. For the next 23 minutes the Germans strafed and bombed the airfield, inflicting heavy damage. However, their own losses were also high, with 16 of JG 3's 22 pilots being lost.

03 Accidental flypast

At 0914, the pilots of Nos 401 and 412 Squadrons RAF waiting to take off at B 88, near Heesch, were shocked to see 40 German aircraft fly overhead. Either poor intelligence or bad navigation had taken the Germans over the airfield, and the Spitfire pilots quickly scrambled to intercept them.

05 Caught coming home

At B 61 (St Denis-Westrem) No 302 (Polish) Squadron was returning from a dawn sweep, low on fuel and ammunition, when the Germans arrived. One was shot down and others damaged.

06 USAAF strike back

Half the German force tasked with attacking the USAAF airfield at Y-29, Asch, attacked Y-32 at Ophoven by mistake. The rest reached Asch at 0925 as P-51 Mustangs were taking off, and an intense, 45-minute dogfight ensued. The Germans of Jagdgeschwader 11 suffered 50% casualties, for no American loss.

The 'What If' Newspaper

USA

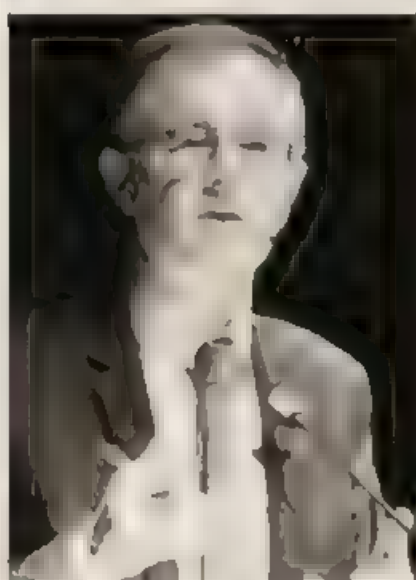
Interview by Jonathan O'Callaghan

1920

AMERICA JOINS THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Congress ratifies the Treaty of Versailles and heralds a new age of international cooperation and diplomacy for the 20th century

EXCLUSIVE Interview With



**PROFESSOR
DAVID
STEVENSON**

Professor Stevenson is a professor of international history at the London School of Economics, specialising in international relations in Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries and the impact of the First World War.

What was the background to the creation of the League of Nations?

You need to go back to the First World War. The American president, Woodrow Wilson, expressed support in principle for the idea as far back as 1916, which was before America even came into the war. He said that America should join such an

organisation if it was set up. At the end of the war in November 1918, the Armistice, there is an agreement that everybody - the Allies, the Americans, the Germans - will make peace. So the League of Nations is the first thing on the agenda when the Paris Peace Conference meets to draw up the treaty in January 1919. The League of

Nations covenant becomes the first 26 articles of the Treaty of Versailles with Germany in June 1919.

What was the purpose of the League of Nations?

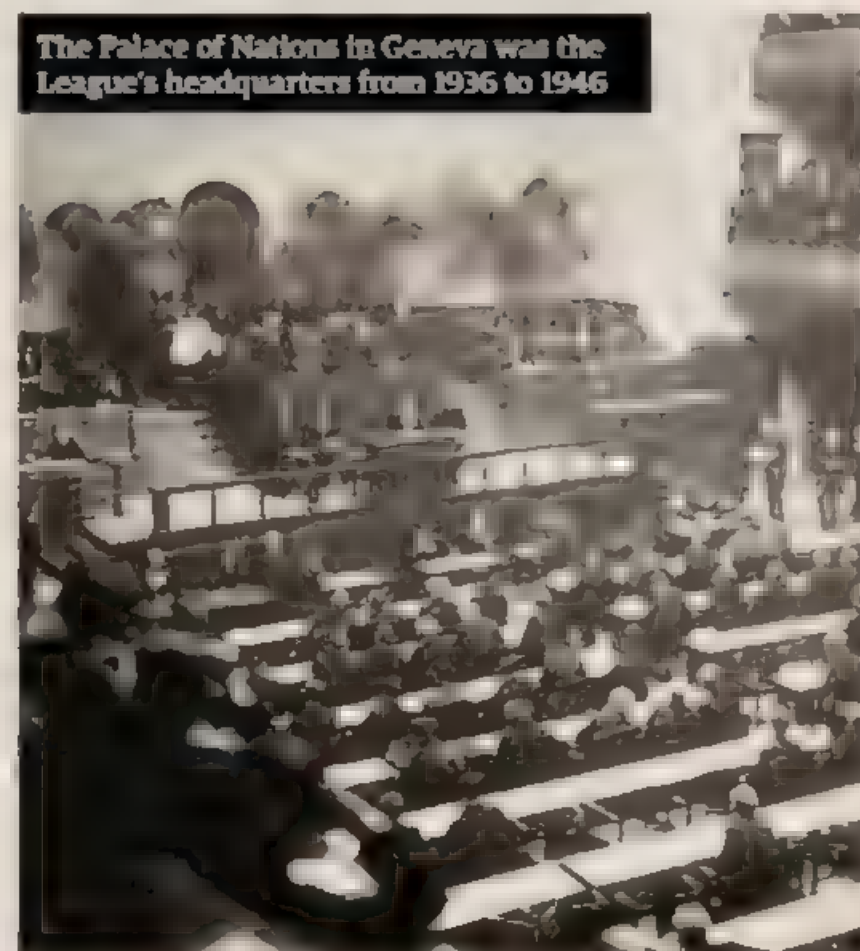
The League grows out of a body of progressive thinking in America and

SIGN UP: PREMIER LEAGUE OF NATIONS FIVE-A-SIDE

The League of Nations is all about peaceful cooperation of self-determining states around the world, working together as equals... but who's better at football? That's the question we will be looking to answer with the new Premier League Of Nations five-a-side tournament. Sign up now at your nearest embassy to be considered for call up to your nation's side.



The Palace of Nations in Geneva was the League's headquarters from 1936 to 1946



Woodrow Wilson failed to get
America into the League



GENEVA GOING GREY OVER WOOL SHORTAGES



Tailors are reporting a shocking and debilitating shortage of grey wool in the city of Geneva and the immediate area that is greatly impacting production of suits for the local population.

Accusations abound that the arrival of hundreds of ageing white men to the city is the main source of the shortage. The LON refused to comment.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS BOOK CLUB

New to the world of international diplomacy? Make friends and share ideas in the relaxing environment of the newly formed League of Nations Book Club. Our texts this month are *Ten Days That Shook The World* by John Reed and *The Economic Consequences Of The Peace* by John Maynard Keynes.



“The Americans would not have been willing to give the League strong backing”



The League's goal was to prevent another conflict like WW1

The League ultimately failed to prevent the rise of Hitler



Britain before the First World War. The essential thinking is the First World War is a disaster, and the fact it happened is blamed on the pre-war balance of power [It's set up] to prevent that kind of disaster happening again. The idea is you don't outlaw war, but before two countries can go to war they have to jump through a series of hoops, and they can only go to war if all peacekeeping procedures have been exhausted.

Why didn't America join the League of Nations?

For the US to join the League of Nations, the US needed to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. Under the US constitution you needed a two-thirds majority in the Senate to ratify that agreement. Wilson didn't like that, because he knew that there was a lot of opposition in the Senate to joining the League, but he thought the Senate would not dare to refuse to ratify the peace treaty with Germany. There was no historical precedent for the Senate doing that, rejecting a peace treaty. Wilson was a Democrat, and the Republicans had gained a small majority in the Senate mid-term elections in November 1918. So Wilson's party didn't have a numerical majority to get this treaty approved. He's only going to get the treaty passed if he can split the Republicans and get the moderate Republicans to join up with the Democrats. Most of the Republicans were willing to accept the League of Nations subject to what are called reservations that come from Senator Henry Cabot Lodge. The most important of the Lodge reservations is it reserves Congresses' right to declare war under the constitution. In other words America would not be automatically bound to go to war if the League of Nations council decided that there should be military action. Wilson is not prepared to accept

the reservations, and so you have a kind of deadlock. Because Wilson refuses to compromise with the Republicans, he says the Democrats should vote against the League of Nations covenant rather than to accept it with reservations. So the compromise position is rejected, and Wilson can't get it through on his own terms. He makes it a key issue in the 1920 elections, but the Democrats lose and that's really the end of it.

Is there a scenario where they could have joined?

It's a question of whether there could have been some kind of compromise between Wilson and the moderate Republicans on the basis of a modified peace treaty, or even a peace treaty that dropped the League of Nations altogether. There was some pretty wide support among Republicans for a treaty guarantee with France against German aggression, which is what Wilson proposed at the Paris peace conference, but that collapses when the Senate refuses and doesn't ratify the peace treaty. If the Americans had given that guarantee, Britain would have done so as well, and France would have been protected by both Anglo-Saxon powers against German aggression.

What if the US had joined the League of Nations in some form?

Well, "in some form" is the key thing. If the Americans had joined but not really been prepared to join much more than on paper and kind of unenthusiastic about it, then they would have done so on pretty much the same basis that Britain and France did. The majority of the British and France governments were sceptical about the League, but they joined in order to humour the Americans, thinking that Wilson was going to be able to get America in. When Wilson wasn't able to

AMERICA JOINS THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS



do that. Britain and France were left with the primary responsibility of making the organisation work. The Americans would not have been willing to give the League strong backing. [But] if the Americans had taken part that would have been useful for economic sanctions.

Would US involvement have changed the League's activities in the run-up to the Second World War?

One question mark is whether the Americans would have accepted any mandates. One of the areas Britain wanted to take a mandate for was Armenia, where massacres and genocide had taken place in 1915. Armenia ends up being divided between Turkey and Russia. As far as the League's humanitarian activities are concerned, if America had been in it might actually have weakened the capacity to intervene in the International Labour Organisation, because the Americans were on the whole less developed than European countries in their protection of labour conditions and recognising trade unions. It might have led to pushes in other directions, for example temperance. The Americans were very concerned about controlling the international liquor trade and narcotics trade.

Would anything else have changed?

The biggest single question mark is whether, if the Americans had gone in, it would have strengthened the League's ability to impose economic sanctions. A good example of this is the Abyssinian crisis of 1935. It's probably the most determined attempt by the League to stop an aggression, because all of the League's members agreed to impose economic sanctions against Italy. The Americans were not part of the League, and oil companies continued to export to

Italy. Had America been in it might have put more pressure on the Italians to halt their war against Abyssinia.

Could America's involvement have altered the League's perceived lack of power?

It would have depended on how the Americans interpreted their role in the League. It would be necessary for the Americans, with the big crises in the 1930s, to have said to Britain and France that they need to take a firm line against aggression. If the Americans had just been in in name only, I think the League would have continued to lack credibility. If the Americans had given a firm guarantee with Britain and France against German aggression that could really have made a difference in the early and mid-1930s, when Hitler begins rearmament. It's a kind of lost opportunity to stop German aggression before it becomes impossible to stop without a major war.

Would this have had any other major impacts?

One thing is American isolationism in the 1930s. There's a very strong reaction in the mid-1930s against the consequences of American involvement in the First World War. Congress passes neutrality acts in 1935, 1936 and 1937 which provide that if another war breaks out in Europe or Asia, America will not lend any money, will not sell any weapons to the countries that are at war, and will not travel on Allied or enemy passenger ships. If America had been in the League, that isolationist reaction would have been even stronger than it actually was, given the view of many people that the League of Nations was something that was a completely unacceptable infringement on American sovereignty. So it could actually have been counter-productive.

Lessons for the UN

The ultimate failure of the League of Nations, created to prevent a conflict on the scale of the Great War, was the outbreak of World War II. As such, it is no surprise that the member states felt no pull towards reconstituting that organisation when peace was finally achieved and renewed vigour for cooperation was found. From its ashes and its failed promise rose the United Nations.

The UN features several mechanisms that have made it a more successful apparatus for maintaining peaceful relations between nations. The US being involved and having a powerful Security Council gives the UN teeth that the LON never had. Committees on health, labour, education and child welfare also mean it is tackling more than just high-level diplomacy, but the fostering of democratic and humanitarian values too. Mistakes have been made over the years, but it has proven to be a much healthier organisation.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council are the USA, Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom.



BAKE SALE FOR WORLD PEACE

As is well known among LON members we have a distinct lack of income from our member states and very little will to invest in the world peace we all seek, so join us for our bake sale to raise funds this coming Thursday.



THROUGH HISTORY

The Story Of Kensington Palace

by Tracy Borman
is published by
Merrell Publishers in
association with Historic
Royal Palaces

THE HISTORY OF KENSINGTON PALACE

Discover the social and political significance of this magnificent royal residence

The *Story Of Kensington Palace* written by Tracy Borman, joint Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces, explores the fascinating history of this iconic palace, which she describes as "the story of the modern monarchy."

For over three centuries, Kensington Palace has paid witness to some of the biggest events in royal history. Seeking clean air amidst the dirt and smoke of London, William and

Mary purchased Nottingham House in 1689, transforming it into a palace with the help of renowned architect Sir Christopher Wren.

It was a beloved residence of the early Georgian monarchs, with King George I rebuilding parts of the palace and lavishly redecorating the King's State Apartments. After his death, King George II and Queen Caroline stayed at the palace extensively, turning it into the centre of court life during their reign.

The palace is also remembered as the birthplace and childhood home of Queen Victoria, who chose to reign from Buckingham Palace following her accession to the throne in June 1837. Today, it is the home to the younger generation of royals, most notably Princes William and Harry and their families, as well as serving as a popular tourist attraction, welcoming more than 600,000 visitors to its splendid sights every year.

THE HISTORY OF KENSINGTON PALACE

A ROYAL REFIT

After the death of his wife, Queen Mary II, King William III spent most of his time at Kensington Palace. He added the King's Gallery, the palace's largest state apartment, which was originally decorated with green velvet. It was redecorated in its current state for King George I, with red damask and white and gold woodwork.

SOCIAL CLIMBING

The Great Staircase is decorated with paintings featuring members of George I's court by William Kent, from 1725 to 1727. It leads to the King's State Apartments and the cream of Georgian society would have climbed these stairs in the hope of visiting the king.

CLEVER CRAFTSMANSHIP

The most important part of the King's Gallery is the wind-dial, located above the fireplace. Dating from William's reign, it is connected to a vane on the roof and allowed the king to see the direction the wind was blowing. It also features painted scenes of the four known continents, as Australia had not yet been discovered.



THROUGH HISTORY

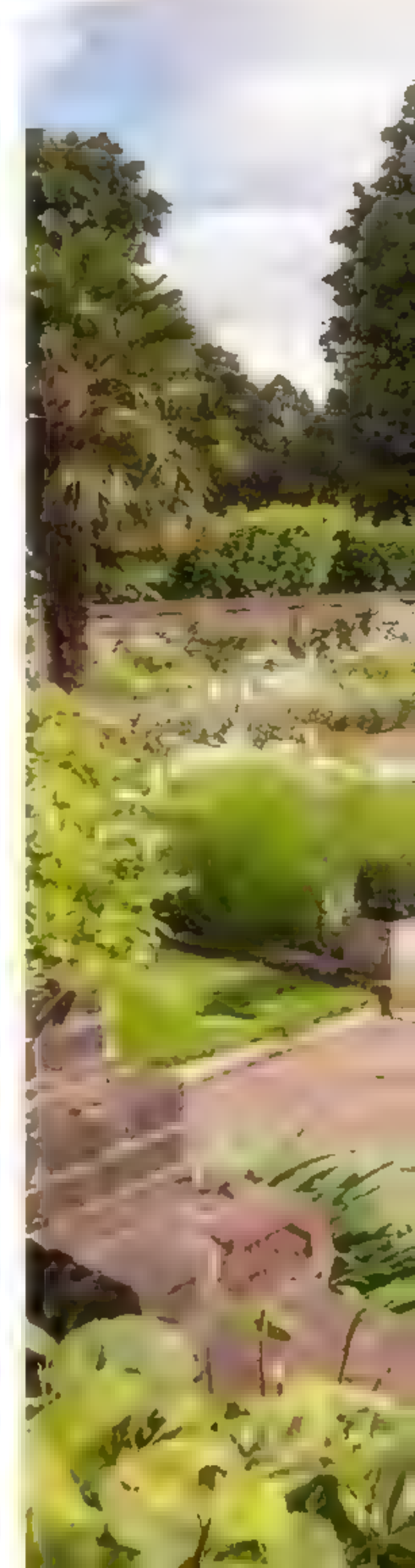
A LANDMARK MOMENT

It is well known that Queen Victoria suffered a lonely and isolated childhood during her time at Kensington. This is her bedroom, where the young princess learnt of the death of her uncle King William IV on 20 June 1837, and her subsequent accession as queen.



ELEGANT GARDENS

Queen Caroline spent much of her time at the palace redesigning Kensington Gardens with the help of the royal gardener, Charles Bridgeman, with some areas such as the Serpentine lake still surviving today. This particular lawn was laid out by Caroline to replace the elaborate gardens of William and Mary.



THE ROYAL ARTIST

Princess Louise, Queen Victoria's daughter, sculpted a white marble statue of her mother in her coronation robes to celebrate the queen's Golden Jubilee in 1887. It was installed in the palace gardens, where it can still be seen today.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Diana, Princess of Wales, lived at Kensington Palace both during her marriage to Prince Charles and after their divorce. Her tragic death in 1997 shocked the world but her legacy at the palace lives on – the White Garden was created in 2017 as a celebration of her life and to mark the 20th anniversary of her death.

HIGH FASHION

The gown worn by Queen Victoria during her coronation in 1838 is a perfect example of the clothing Georgian courtiers were expected to wear. Fashion was extremely important and members of society could not be admitted to court unless they were well-dressed.

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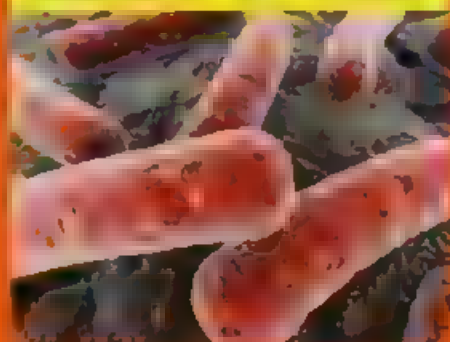
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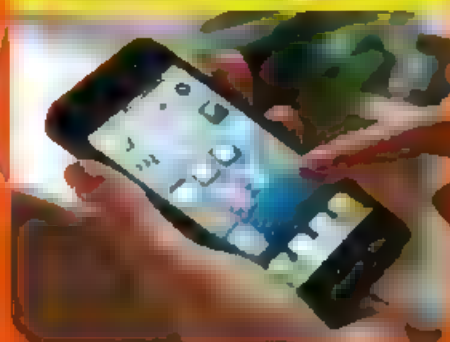
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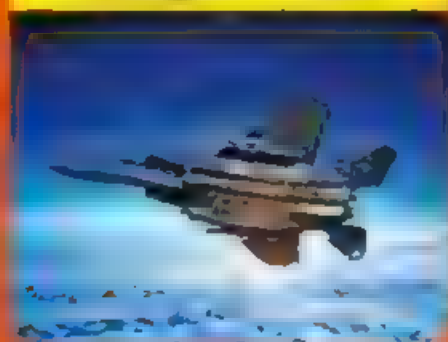
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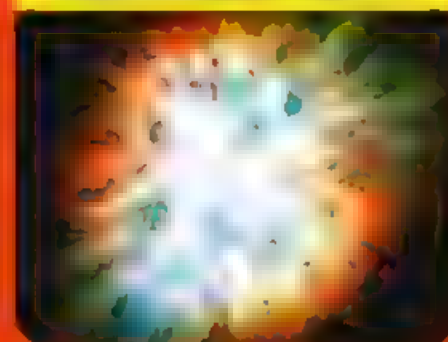
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ILLUSTRATIONS



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On the Menu

VIKING BARLEY FLATBREAD

Did you know?

Vikings may not have eaten as much meat as you might imagine. Animal bone remains suggest it was not the bulk of the domestic diet

Ingredients

- 190g of whole barley flour
- 190g all-purpose flour
- 2½ tsp instant yeast
- 2 tbsp canola oil
- 1 tbsp honey
- 350ml warm water
- Extra flour for rolling and oil for brushing
- Salt and herbs for seasoning optional

FOOD FIT FOR EXPLORERS NORTH ATLANTIC, 10TH CENTURY

Since Vikings didn't seem to leave us any cookbooks around, working out exactly what the Nordic peoples ate around the late 10th century is a bit of a challenge. We can make a few assumptions based on what we know of dietary habits immediately before and after, however, such as farming being on a pretty small scale and seasonal foods being very important. There would have been times of great abundance and times of limited resources depending on season.

But since we've focused a lot on the seafaring Vikings this issue, what would they have taken with them on their travels? They'd definitely have taken long-lasting foods to supplement anything they might be able to catch or hunt on their journey, and bread of course, which was a staple of most diets in the era. So, we've looked at a classic flatbread using a barley flour, which ought to have been readily available at the time. There are some super simple ways of doing this with just flour and water, but this modern twist might be a little more tender and tasty.

METHOD

- 01 Put the barley flour, all-purpose flour and yeast into a large mixing bowl and combine them together lightly, just to blend the powders together a little.
- 02 In a small measuring cup or jug, mix together the canola oil, honey and warm water (and just warm, not boiling). Once well mixed together, pour the liquid into the flour and yeast mixture and begin to blend these ingredients together.
- 03 Continue to stir and mix the ingredients in the bowl until the mixture begins to pull away from the side of the bowl, meaning that it is now forming a cohesive dough.
- 04 Lightly flour your work surface and tip the dough onto it. It should be slightly sticky at this point, so it will need kneading for ten minutes, adding small amounts of flour if necessary, until it is smooth and elastic. You'll know it's elastic when you can poke it and the dough springs back.
- 05 Place the dough back in the mixing bowl, brush with a little oil and cover with cling film or a damp cloth for 90 minutes, allowing the dough to double in size as it stands.
- 06 Preheat your oven to gas mark 7 (220°C or 425°F), warming a baking stone or a turned over baking sheet.
- 07 Remove the dough from the bowl onto your lightly floured work surface and punch it down to flatten. Cut into six evenly sized pieces and then roll each one out to 20cm (eight inch) rounds about 1cm (1/4 inch) thick.
- 08 Place each round in turn into the oven on your stone or baking sheet, cooking for around four minutes or until the bread is puffed and the surface is dry. Transfer to a cooling rack once done.
- 09 For added flavour, brush the flatbreads with a little more oil while still warm and sprinkle with herbs, salt and pepper for additional seasoning.

REVIEWS

The books, TV shows and films causing a stir in the history world this month

HOW TO HIDE AN EMPIRE

An endlessly fascinating study deconstructing the myth of anti-imperialist America

Author Daniel Immerwahr **Publisher** The Bodley Head **Price** £25 **Released** Out Now

America has for much of its history presented itself as the antithesis of Europe's colonial powers: a republic forged in the Wars of Independence with a constitution for its citizens and no interest in territorial conquest. Yet as this authoritative new book argues, this narrative of

anti-imperialism crumbles in the face of the fact that the United States has itself owned foreign territory for more than 100 years

Daniel Immerwahr charts American history from the nation's founding onwards through the lens of the 'Greater United States' - his term for the empire that America effectively

assembled from the time of the 1830s creation of an "all-Indian territory" in the US, which he argues was its first colony. Many of the territories were acquired following the 1898 war with Spain, including the Philippines (which officially became independent in 1946), Puerto Rico and Guam. Although a variety of scholars have researched these topics, says Immerwahr, when historians have come to write narratives of the country as a whole the territories have been sidelined

The author, who dedicates his book to 'the uncaptured', documents a vast range of events including America's occupation of the Guano Islands, precipitated by efforts to lessen the US's agricultural crisis; the impact of World War I's peace process on colonial systems; and the Philippine War of 1899 to 1913 - after Afghanistan the longest war the United States has fought.

How To Hide An Empire not only places these events centre stage as significant markers in American history but also offers readers an important insight into the United States' frequently contradictory and ambiguous messaging around its territories - claiming or disclaiming a territory's rights under the constitution for example when it suited political means - as well as into the roots of the United States' interventionism. There are also explorations of how aware 'mainland' American citizens have been of these territories at various points in US history. For example, a discussion of President Roosevelt's "Infamy" speech following

the Japanese attacks at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and in Greater United States territories such as the Philippines, in 1941, examines the president's drafting of his speech to give more prominence to Pearl Harbor - Immerwahr suggests the speech was amended by Roosevelt because of Hawaii seeming more 'American' than the territories. This tells us how little the territories appear to have featured in mainlanders' conceptions of American identity. Other than a brief interlude at the turn of the 20th century, the nation has historically sought to deny or

downplay its colonialism rather than celebrate it.

How To Hide An Empire is a scholarly work which achieves a strong grounding in its source material and the wider history of empire studies, but also an accessibility in its approach and tone, meaning it should be a valuable resource for historians and the public alike. With colonial empires still a source of much debate in the public arena, and with many researchers remaining committed to giving a voice to individuals and communities who have been sidelined within mainstream history, Immerwahr's study is timely and raises weighty questions on themes of identity and belonging that are all very relevant today.

"Achieves a strong grounding in its source material and the wider history of empire studies"

How to Hide An Empire

A Short History of the Greater United States



Daniel Immerwahr





Book



TV



Podcast



Film



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A HISTORY OF WOMEN IN MEDICINE



An examination of the forgotten lives of female physicians

Author Sinéad Spearing Publisher Pen & Sword History

Price £19.99 Released Out Now

Today the word *witch* conjures up images of pointed hats and broomsticks, cauldrons and black cats, but it is a word that has carried a myriad of meanings throughout the centuries. Often shorthand for something to be feared, it was once used to describe the priestesses and female physicians of an ancient tribe, women who were to be respected, not persecuted.

A History Of Women In Medicine: Cunning Women, Physicians, Witches brings these women and their world vividly to life once more. What emerges is the tale of an unforgivably forgotten group of women who had a unique understanding of the land in which they lived and the healing powers inherent in the natural world. These ancient women travelled from place to place offering medical care and spiritual

comfort and as they did, their reputations saw them venerated wherever they trod.

Sinéad Spearing's fascinating work brings together disciplines including archaeology, folklore, religion and literature to examine what became of these women and what led the church to attempt to silence them. In doing so, she calls on a broad range of sources to track the origin of the modern figure of the witch and its supposed connections to Satanism, drawing on not only written records but gravesites of women suspected of witchcraft.

This is a vast subject and Spearing's book is an excellent introduction to it. It should have widespread appeal, bringing these forgotten voices to the fore again.

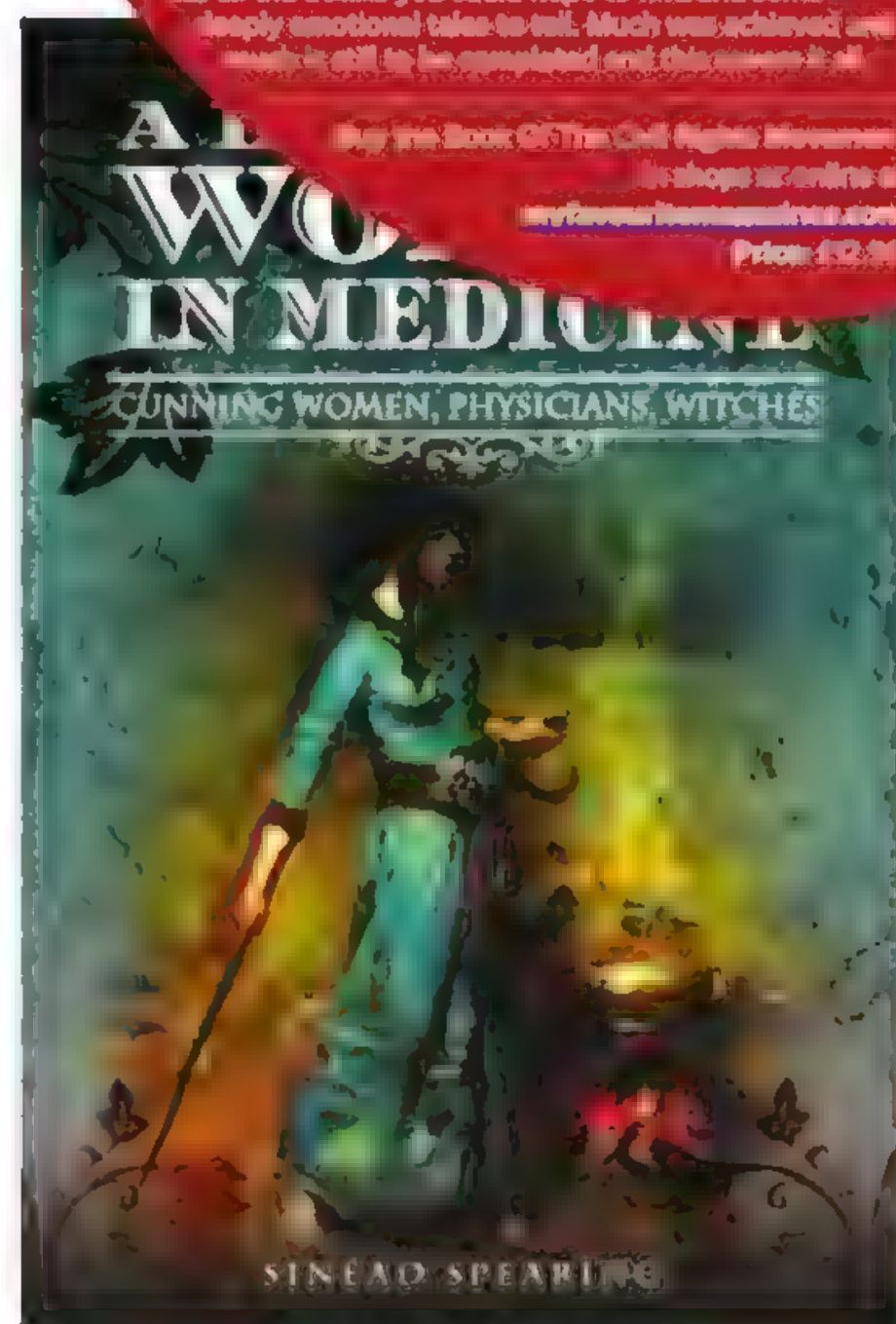


Book Of The Civil Rights Movement

Marking 50 years since the civil rights act was passed into law in the United States, this new edition of our book covering the history of the civil rights movement is a fantastic compendium of the important figures and events that helped to change the tide of history and lead to landmark social advances.

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Buy the Book Of The Civil Rights Movement at shops online at www.humanities.com Price: £12.99



ON THE BASIS OF SEX



A life-making life given a by the numbers treatment

Certificate 12A Director Mimi Leder Cast Felicity Jones, Armie Hammer, Justin Theroux, Kathy Bates, Sam Waterston Released Out Now

As this movie explores, Ruth Bader Ginsburg's commitment to women's rights and equality dates back to her earliest years getting into Harvard in 1956 and being one of only nine women attending that year (in a class of 500). This is how we're introduced to her in the film in one of many nice visual touches from director Mimi Leder, as she enters the institution's esteemed educational halls surrounded by men. The choice to start here, however, is perhaps one of the reasons why the movie can sometimes feel a little directionless in its opening hour.

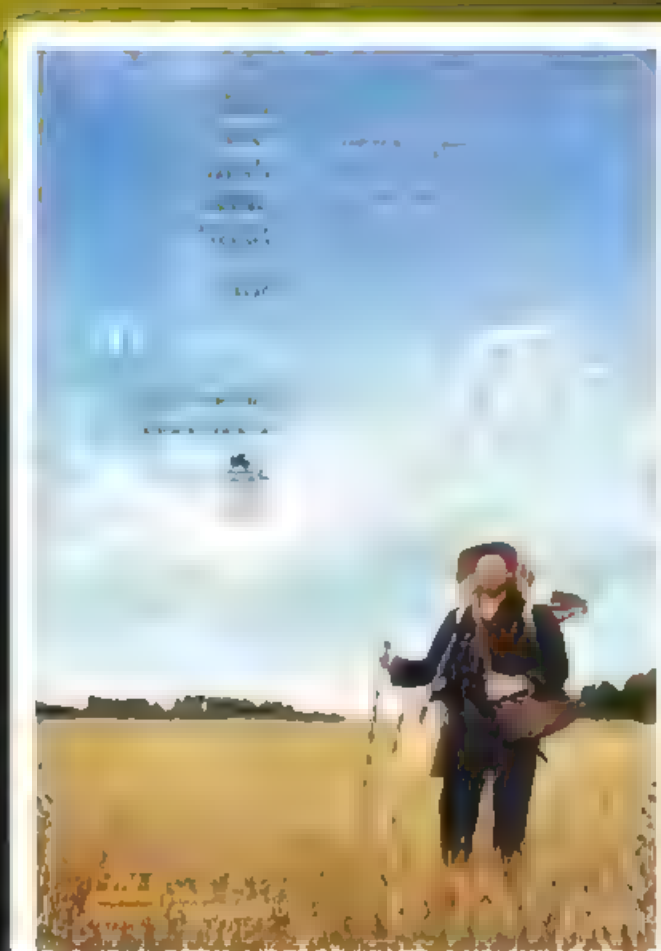
On The Basis Of Sex is not quite a full biography of Ginsburg, but neither is it a slice of time. It leaps from her law school years to being rejected for legal positions around New York despite her exemplary qualifications, to teaching and finally challenging laws in the US that discriminate based on sex. In so

doing it paints a reasonable picture of the woman, but fails to serve the story as well as it could.

That being said, the way in which it dissects generational divides and shows how Ginsburg bridged past generations of women with a new activist generation, which she sees in her own daughter, is very nicely done. Felicity Jones is captivating as Ginsburg and Armie Hammer makes an excellent turn as her supportive husband, Martin. The acting all around is very good, although Justin Theroux is perhaps let down by a script that has his ACLU legal director Melvin Wulf veer from hero to villain and back to hero again depending on the needs of the narrative at that moment.

It's hard not to feel that such a monumental life and career deserves something more





AT ETERNITY'S GATE



Star Willem Dafoe views his doomed artist Vincent Van Gogh

Certificate 12A Director Julian Schnabel **Cast** Willem Dafoe, Oscar Isaac, Mads Mikkelsen, Mathieu Amalric, Rupert Friend **Released** 29 March

Cinema has long been fascinated by the tragic life of Post-impressionist Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890). Among a roster of movies, documentaries and shorts, Vincente Minnelli's *Lust For Life* (1956),

Robert Altman's *Vincent & Theo* (1990) and Maurice Pialat's unconventional *Van Gogh* (1991) are the most well-known. More recently the experimental animated feature *Loving Vincent* (2017) recreated van Gogh's story in the dreamy style of his iconic paintings. The indie Polish-UK production proved a hit and on the back of this, comes Julian Schnabel's no less bold *At Eternity's Gate*

Willem Dafoe is far too old at 62 to play a man who died aged 37. Yet the discrepancy works as a piece of radical casting.

Dafoe - who has received an Academy Award nomination for the role - delivers a nuanced, soulful performance. Set during the final years of a relatively short life, van Gogh suffered from

severe mental health issues, living a peripatetic existence. Dafoe's craggy face produces a suitably haggard look, inventively reflecting anguish and tiredness beyond the artist's years. Whether lost in melancholic thoughts or experiencing

brief bursts of giddiness and joy, Dafoe's ability to convey deep wells of emotion, without resorting to overacting, is a triumph

Schnabel sees the artist as a seer. Vincent isn't just using pioneering techniques to paint things others ignored or found odd. The intention behind the work is direct communion with nature. "When I look at a flat landscape, I see eternity," he tells Gauguin (Oscar Isaac). "Painted reality is its own reality," he adds, mystifying his egocentric pal, with whom he shared a combustible relationship.

Such eloquent observations sit at counterpoint to extended, dialogue-free passages, where van Gogh traipses through rural landscapes, allowing renowned cinematographer Benoît Delhomme

free rein to capture purely in images the artist's confused state of mind or sense of wonder at the natural world. These sequences are stirring. Sat at his easel, all alone in fields or his room, momentarily unburdened, able to channel his vision, he appears to be at peace in the frenzy of artistic creation. Less successful is occasional use of an in-camera blurring effect, stretching across the centre of the frame strip-like, in certain scenes and shots. Used to symbolise van Gogh's state of mind, it simply distracts too much.

At Eternity's Gate offers an imaginative reading of van Gogh's aesthetic vision and processes, one in keeping with the artist's religious fervour and Schnabel's portrait of the man as a quasi-mystic. Every stroke of the brush is an act of soul-baring and a truth-seeking endeavour to reach beyond the realms of the quotidian and ordinary. Therefore scenes with van Gogh painting his masterpieces in open field or studio aren't a risible cliché, but the thoughtful and considered depiction of a sacred ritual or form of spiritual transference.

"Willem Dafoe is far too old at 62 to play a man who died aged 37. Yet the discrepancy works"



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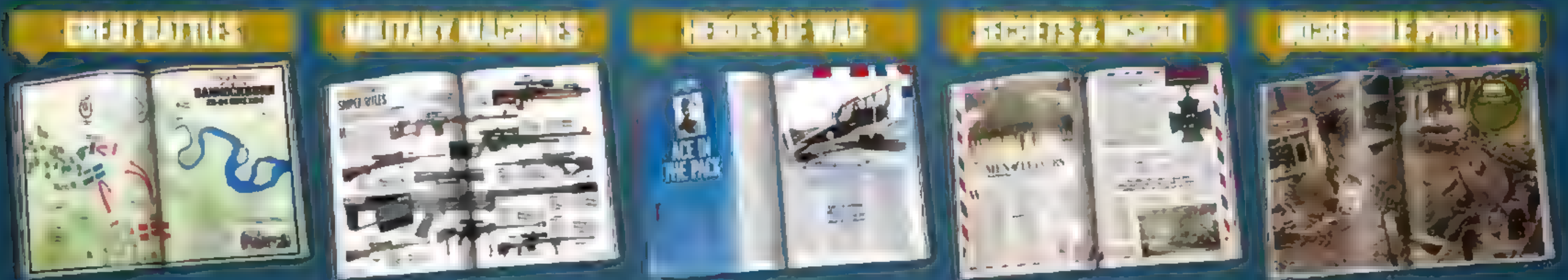


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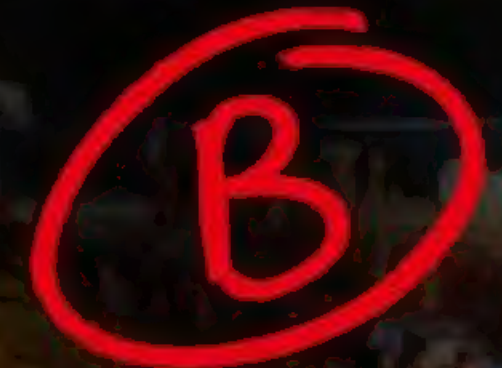
HISTORY HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen

THE LAST EMPEROR

Director: Bernardo Bertolucci Starring: John Lone, Joan Chen, Peter O'Toole Country: United Kingdom, Italy Released: 1987

This lavish historical epic won every Academy Award it was nominated for, but does it win any points for accuracy?



VERDICT A visually beautiful and fabulously colorful portrayal of Puyi's fascinating life



01 Near the beginning of the film, Puyi attempts to commit suicide after he is taken as a political prisoner by the People's Republic of China. While Puyi was a prisoner, he never attempted to kill himself and so this particular scene is fictional.

02 The film accurately depicts Empress Dowager Cixi choosing young Puyi to succeed her on the Dragon Throne, taking him away from his biological mother. The decision was made on her deathbed after her nephew, the Guangxu Emperor, died the day before her.

03 Puyi's Scottish tutor Reginald Johnston, played by Peter O'Toole, really did exist. It is also accurate that Puyi planned to escape the Forbidden City and go to Oxford University, where Johnston had studied, only to be stopped by his tutor.

04 The emperor did have two wives, Empress Wanrong and his concubine, Wenxiu. After he was expelled from the Forbidden City, Puyi moved with his wives to Tianjin, where Wanrong descended into opium addiction and Wenxiu filed for divorce.

05 Following his release from prison, Puyi found work as a gardener, which is correctly portrayed in the film. It also depicts the former emperor visiting the Forbidden City as a tourist, something that Puyi was known to have done.



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NEXT ISSUE

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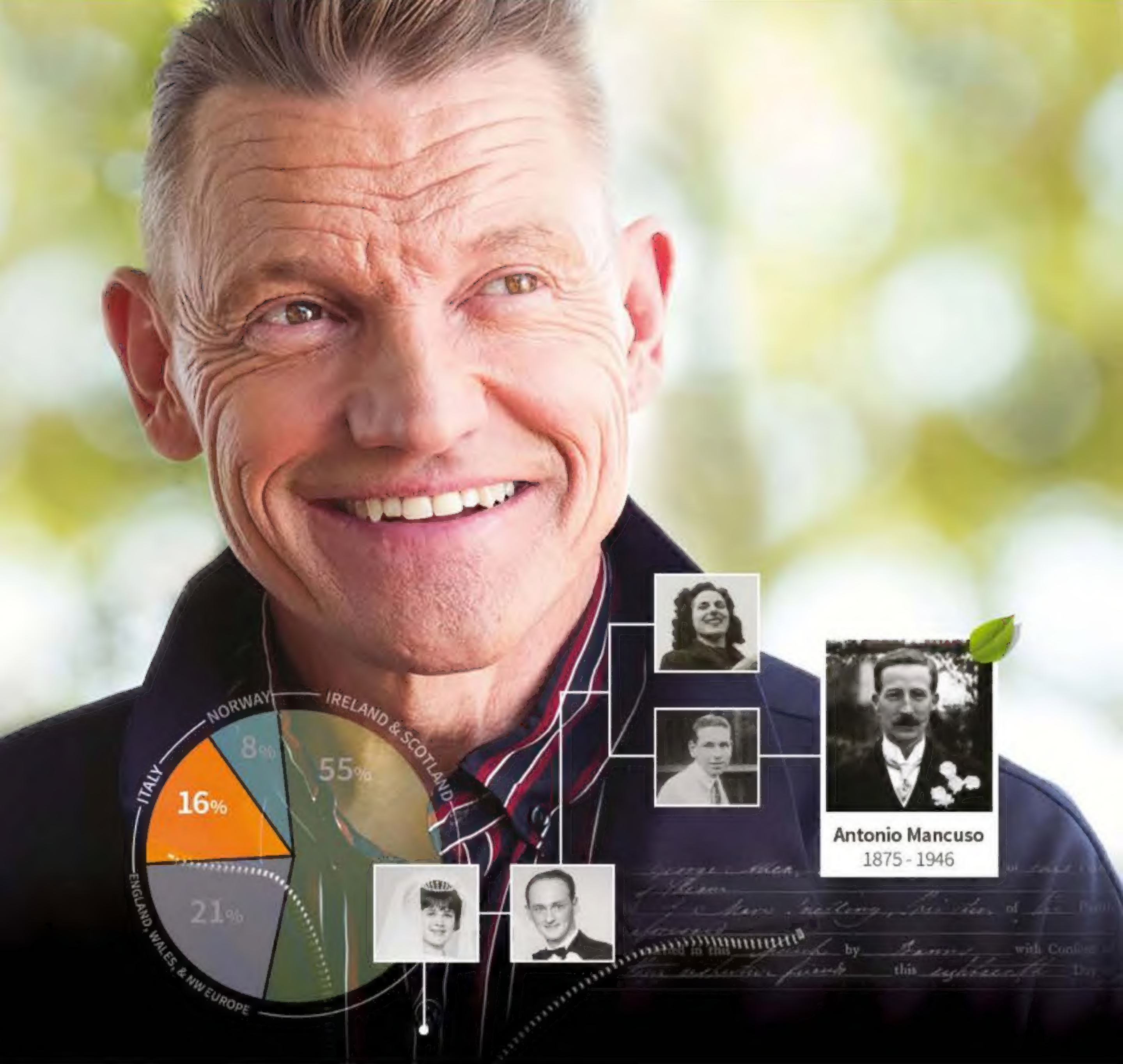
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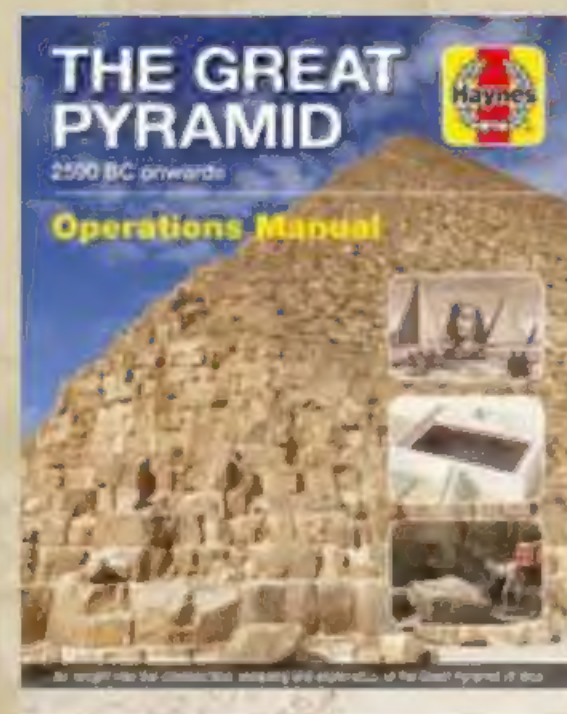
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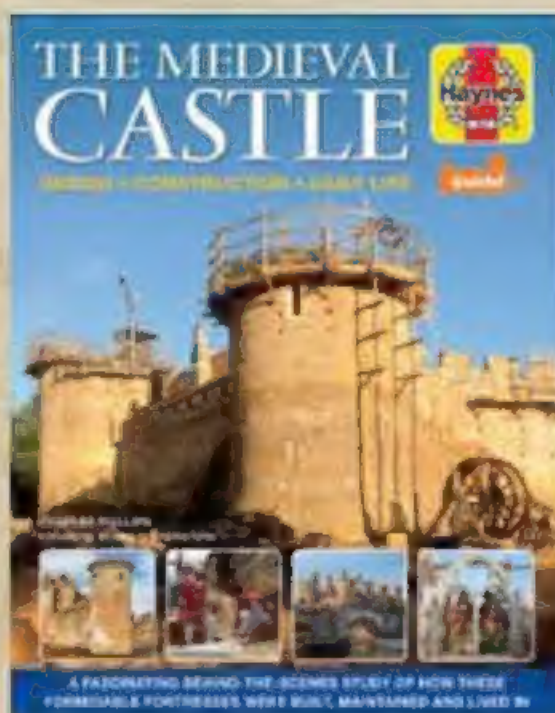
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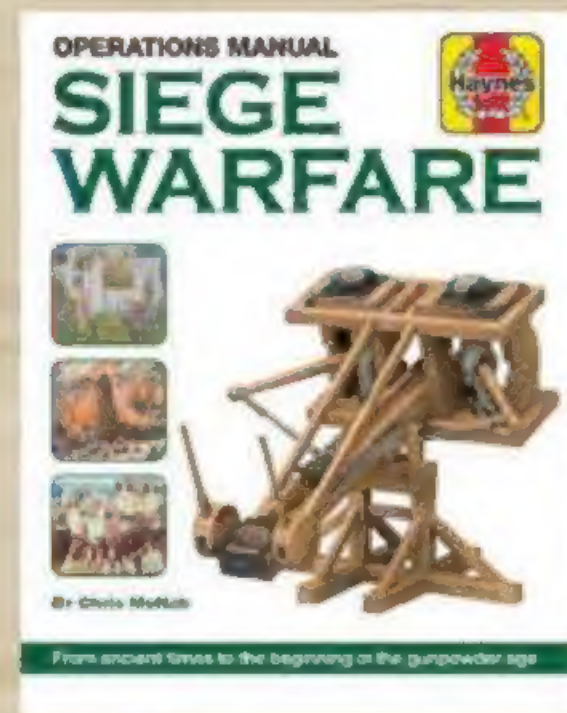
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